

ほのぼのの 人外娘と ダンジョン を作る

MAOU NI NATTA-NODE
DUNGEON TSUKUTTE JINGAI-MUSUME
TO HONO-BONO SURU.

魔王

まおう

王 になったので

造って

著 流優 RYUYU

ILLUST. だぶ竜

カドカワBOOKS

I Became the Demon Lord so I Created a Dungeon and Spend Heartwarming Time There with Non-Human Girls

– Maou ni Nattanode, Dungeon Tsukutte
Jingai Musume to Honobono Suru –

**- Volume 1 -
Arc 1-4**

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- STORY -

Before I realized, I had become the guardian of a dungeon, a Demon Lord. I was suddenly in a dangerous world with giant monsters loitering around, fighting for their existence, so I thought to go about developing the dungeon in order to not die but — - for some reason I was having quite the good time... How did it turn out like this?

The protagonist, Yuki, having to live in that world now, uses his bold and sharp senses and spends time with a supreme dragon girl and a vampire girl; Sometimes laughing, sometimes being angry, passing days doing what he likes.

魔王まおうになったので、
ダンジョンダンジョン造って
人外娘人外娘と
ほのぼのほのぼのする

ドラゴンが銀髪の少女に――

「どうした？
間抜け面をしおって」

「……え？」



モフリル

フェンリル。愛称はリル。
賢いあまりに色々苦労性な
狼。艶やかなモフモフの
毛並みがチャームポイント。

リューイン

ウォーウルフの女の子。
愛称はリュー。レイラととも
にユキに救われた、元気
なアホっ娘。モフリル信者。

ユキ

異世界転生し、魔王に生ま
れ変わった青年。しっかり
者で図太い神経の持ち主だ
が、抜けている一面もある。

レフィシオス

覇龍。愛称はレフィ。ユキが
出す日本のお菓子に夢中。
見た目は美少女なのに、中
身は子供っぽい残念な駄龍。

シイ

ユキが初めて召喚したスライ
ム。戦いには不向きだが、
ダンジョンの皆にベットの存
在として愛でられている。

イルーナ

ヴァンパイアの女の子。瀕
死のところをユキに助けら
れた。天真爛漫な性格で、
好きな物は、ユキの血。

レイラ

羊角の魔族の女の子。
リューインとともにユキに救
われた。普段はおっとりだ
が、知的好奇心が旺盛。





イルーナの頬にあった——殴られた痕。

——ふざけやがって。

……
滅んじまえばいいこんな**種族**。

[Arc 1: A Look into Life In A Dungeon]

Chapter 1

It seems like I have grown wings

“Ah—”

I stared at my face and body reflected on the hand mirror from various different angles.

Black hair, black clothes and the face I have seen countless times now. My face did not quite have any special traits, except the sharp looks, if you count that as one. With not a tall figure, neither a short one and not a tough body, neither a weak one.

Well, up till that, it is fine.
Only up till that.

The reason I am staring at myself like this is not because I am a narcissist. I was confirming something particular.

I changed the angle of the hand mirror and reaffirmed my back.

Reflected on the mirror, there were —- wings.

From the scapula part on my back, deep black wings, like those of bats or dragons, had grown.

I wasn't used to something like this so it felt quite weird but after I tried to concentrate on them a little, I was able to flap them so I guess they are a part of my body now.

And then there were — my eyes.

My eyes were black before but now, only one was black and the other was red. A very bright red.

It seems to be because of a particular skill a species would have, called the demon eyes but... this is just *chuunibyou* stuff now.

It just reminded me of my *dark past* — so embarrassing.

And even though I had looked like that now, I was wearing a T-shirt and a jeans so it kinda gave off a very mismatched impression. Like a very bad cosplay.

Wait a minute... is the part torn from where my wings are supposed to be coming out of? I can't quite see but it should definitely be torn, shouldn't it?

".....Let's just go to sleep."

Sigh I kinda felt worn out from all this so I stopped thinking altogether, exchanged a futon with DP — dungeon point, spread it on my throne, and went to sleep.

Name: Yuki

Race: Arch Demon

Class: Demon Lord

Level: 1

HP: 2100/2100

MP: 6700/6700

Strength: 651

Resistance: 685

Agility: 550

Mana: 897

Dexterity: 1250

Luck: 70

Skill point: 5

Unique Skill: Mana Eye, Language Translation

Skill: Item Box, Analyze Lv1

Title: Demon Lord of a Parallel World

DP: 900

Chapter 2

Let's understand our current state (1)

—If you were wondering what had just happened, it is actually quite simple to explain.

It was reincarnation.

After dying in an accident, I had been born once again.

I understood that as soon as I was conscious again. Not because I met God or something like that, but just because the feeling that I had definitely died still remained.

The feeling of having your bones break into pieces while getting crushed by a truck.

The feeling of strength and blood leaving your body, even though you are not feeling any pain, your vision slowly starting to get dark—

With a big shake of my body and deep breaths, I drive out the unpleasant memories from my head.

Well, anyway, before I realized, I had died and was lying down here, in a throne-like place.

A place with refined chandelier, pillar and walls. There were no windows and the room wasn't too long.

The throne, on which I was sitting on, while it did not have many decorations or the like, gave off quite a grand vibe. Before me, a blue red carpet went straight to the opposite wall, where there was a door with not many ornaments but which felt like it would cost quite a bit.

But, hmm, how do I say this? It gives off a villain-ish feel as a whole. Like one of those last rooms in game dungeons where the demon lord sits in his throne, but a more smaller version of that.

After a while of being baffled by the surroundings, I stood up from the throne to grasp the situation—And then, as my point of view got higher, I noticed something behind the throne.

“What... is this...?”

It was a sphere about one size smaller than a basket ball. A glowing rainbow jewel.

When I stretched my arms to grab it for no particular reason—

“?!Gaaaaaahhh?!”

The moment I touched the jewel—suddenly, a severe headache struck me.

It was like someone directly tampering with my brain.

I fell down to my knees out of pain and put my hands on the floor.

Tears came running from the sides of my eyes, and out of the unbearable pain, my vision got blurry and I started feeling sick.

—After that, the hellish headache continued for about 30 seconds, and then it soon disappeared.

“Haa... haa... I see...”

—And then, I, recited those words.

“...Menu”

As I said that, a transparent glass-like— in short, a game interface-like screen appeared before my eyes.

In my case, maybe because I had played way too many games, this form of communication was chosen to be best.

That information had just popped up into my head, as if there was a dictionary of such words and I searched for it.

...No, they probably directly planted the knowledge onto my brain.

Keeping my staggering head in place with my hands, I turned my gaze towards the menu where I could see four items: *Status*, *DP Catalogue*, *Dungeon* and *Gacha*.

The *Gacha* really piqued my interest but putting that off for now, I tried pressing the *Status* like you would in smartphones and as I did that, numerical values appeared before me which seemed to be my stats.

“Hmmm... wait, race: Arch Demon?!”

Before I knew it, I wasn't human anymore...

Chapter 3

Let's understand our current state (2)

Name: Yuki

Race: Arch Demon

Class: Demon Lord

Level: 1

HP: 2100/2100

MP: 6700/6700

Strength: 651

Resistance: 685

Agility: 550

Mana: 897

Dexterity: 1250

Luck: 70

Skill point: 5

Unique Skill: Mana Eye, Language Translation

Skill: Item Box, Analyze Lv1

Title: Demon Lord of a Parallel World

DP: 1000

Wait a minute, now that I look at it closely, not only did I stop being a human, I am also a Demon Lord now. That's troubling.

...Hmmm, looks like here—

Looks like the dungeon master who maintains the dungeon is generally called the Demon Lord. It appeared in my mind's wikipedia.

My name too, got turned into only katakana and my surname disappeared, making it just Yuki. I had thought it was kind of a girly name to begin with but now it just seems more like this is natural.

I don't really have anything else to compare my status with to know whether they are good or not but, this exceedingly low *Luck* kinda bothers me... Well, I did die in an accident so I guess that is how it is.

I don't quite understand why *Dexterity* is one head above the others either. It is not like my hobby was handicrafts or something.

When I slid my fingers over the listed skills, it displayed the details.

Analyze, *Item Box* and *Language Translation* are pretty much what they say. The stuff I can analyze increases as I level up and the amount of mana I can store in the item box also increases as I level up. *Language Translation* is pretty self-explanatory.

As for *Mana Eye*... it seems like a race-special skill. I could probably visualize the opponent's mana but I don't really understand its usefulness yet.

Skill Point seems to be the amount of points I have which I could use to level up my skills. It seems my current limit of skill level seems to be 10. As it keeps increasing, the amount of skill points needed to level it up also increases proportionally.

Next, when I tried to reaffirm my title, this was displayed,

Demon Lord of a Parallel World: The one who appeared from another world — is what I got from using *Language Translation*.

.....Ah, yep. This is really a different world then, isn't it? Well, I did sort of expect as much.

For now, after confirming the basics of the status screen, I closed it and opened up the *DP Catalogue*.

It seems to also be just as the name suggests, a catalogue of things you can exchange with DP — Dungeon Points.

There are things all the way from the realms of fantasy like sword, shield and armours to normal daily life items such as toothbrush, drinking glass and food. If you have a ton of DP, it looks like you could even get a video game. What is this, online shopping?! Well, since it is convenient, I am not complaining.

It might be that there are two kinds of things available in this *DP Catalogue*, the things I know of and the things which are in this dungeon from the start. If that was not the case, then these *video game or toothbrush*-like items which crush the different world vibe would not exist in it.

Just that the Earth goods are relatively pricey compared to this world's goods. It looks like it will take me quite some time to get those things.

Gacha is just gacha. Nothing more, nothing less. There are four of them inside: 100DP, 1000DP, 10000DP, and 100000DP. I won't know what comes out unless I roll one.

The remaining option, *Dungeon*, has the main features needed in a dungeon, for example: Dungeon layers, expansion, monster summoning, etc.

Well, I shall get to the minute details sometime later.

— The dungeon is a living thing.

It is born at places where this world's exclusive *Magical Essence* is at large.

A dungeon which just spawned recently is weak without exception and can easily be crushed.

And the ones who come to crush it are mostly the humans. They probably come for the dungeon core — that rainbow-coloured jewel I saw a while ago. It did look quite rare.

And also, the wildlife of this world, the *monsters* also seem to be drawn by the enormous mana inside the jewel and come to attack.

— In short, for a dungeon, everything in the surrounding are enemies.

And there, the dungeon summons a manager for it and tries to increase its survival rate. It discovered a way to exist together.

The Demon Lord is summoned just like that.

They manage the dungeon and protect it.

In most cases, the dungeons seem to call and bring their Demon Lords from the surrounding but, as the place where this one was born was thick with *Magical Essence*, it seems to have more power than most.

Using majority of that power, it seems to have summoned me as its manager as I was a more appropriate being for its Demon Lord.

It seems like I am more adequate to be a Demon Lord from others' (?) perspectives. It is quite regrettable.

The reason I had reincarnated into an arch demon from a human was also the cause of another one of the dungeon's self-defense mechanisms. It probably judged that it's survival rate would increase more if I was born into an arch demon rather than a human.

And this does not seem to be possible if the soul is not suitable for it but... Well, yep, it's probably that. Probably because the character in the game I played the most was an arch demon so that probably influenced it... Who am I kidding?

...However, having powers is not such a bad feeling. After the knowledge was planted into my brain I understood that this world was much more dangerous than my previous one. Tons of monsters, tons of wars. On top of that, because low IQ Demon Lords have been killing humans all over the place, there seems to be quite the hatred towards Demon Lords.

Being born in such a world as a Demon Lord, it is probably better to have some strength to increase my survival rate as well.

I glared at the jewel— the jewel that made me go through that intense pain, that shitty annoying dungeon core.

As the dungeon's power influences the Demon Lord's vessels survival a lot, if the dungeon falls apart, so does the Demon Lord. Also, as it is giving most of its resources to the Demon Lord, if the Demon Lord dies, its power also reduces dramatically and it also ends up dying.

—- In short, we share the same life.

“Darn it, calling me into such a troublesome world.”

However, if it was not for this guy, it is also true that I would have not regained consciousness ever again.

I touched the dungeon core once again. It didn't give me the intense headaches anymore.

This, right here, is my second heart.

...Since I have got this second chance in life, this time, I shall live to my fullest... all the while protecting this guy... yep, does not sound too bad.

While I was wondering that, I had remembered that I had not confirmed my appearance after becoming an arch demon so I went into the *DP Catalogue* and got myself a hand mirror —.

Chapter 4

Let's understand our current state (3)

The following day.

After having slept for some time, I was feeling refreshed so I put the futon into the item box and opened the *DP Catalogue* to search for food ingredients for breakfast.

When I activated the item box, a vacuum cracked open in the air and I could put stuff in there.

When I was wondering about how I would go about bringing stuff out from it, a list appeared inside my head and it looked like I could bring the item I think about out when I put my hand in. So convenient.

And by the way, if you were wondering how I knew the date and time while there were no windows in the room, it is because there's a date and time displayed on the upper right corner of the menu.

When I was just about to retort with 'What is this, a game?!', I remembered that it was probably used as a reference so it was only natural.

After bringing out a loaf of bread (15DP) and bacon (30DP), as there were no other chairs in the room, I sat down on the throne and started eating.

I need to properly think of how to reserve DP too. I do have most of the initial 1000DP but this is my life-line.

I feel kinda uneasy as it keeps decreasing.

There are four ways to get DP:

Having monsters other than the one I made inside the dungeon (The stronger the monster, the more DP)

Killing intruders in the dungeon. (The stronger the invader, the more DP)

Absorbing a body or something which could be food inside the dungeon (More DP depending on the thing)

Natural recovery (Recovers naturally from the dungeon surroundings)

As you can see, a lot of the DP income depends on the invader. It's weird how the dungeon gives birth to the manager to not get killed by invaders but needs the invaders for food.

Well, I guess that is the survival of the fittest. The dungeon is also a living thing after all. It probably can't escape from that.

Although there is the natural recovery, it only recovers about 1 DP per 3 hours at the moment so I can't really depend on it.

It is necessary to properly put everything in the dungeon in order but, for that, I would need to know how the dungeons and Demon Lords are perceived. Also, the geography. I would definitely need to know these.

It's kinda like this- 'If you don't know the demand, you won't know how to supply.' I faintly recalled something like that from the previous world.

But even though I say that, the knowledge the dungeon forced on me, the wikipedia in my brain only had the descriptions of the invaders from the dungeon's perspective so I don't really understand fully.

In short, it was something like *'The bad beings who come to kill us.'*

Well, yes, I guess. It would see the ones who come to kill it as bad, of course.

"Now then..."

After eating breakfast and sweeping all the bread crumbs off me, I stood up and turned towards the only door of the room.

For now, the only thing I immediately need to confirm is what lies in front of this door.

I am half curious and half afraid about what might be lying in wait ahead but... it won't start if I don't do anything here.

After preparing myself mentally, I went to the door, and gently opened it —

".....A cave, eh?"

In front of the door, lied one huge cave.

A crystal like stalactite hung from above, who knows how old, and from a little tear on the ceiling of the cave, light came flowing in and reflected to illuminate the surrounding.

At a little caved-in place, water was gathering up, and I do not know whether any impurities were mixed in it or not but, it was so transparent that you could see all the way to the end.

Quite the magical spectacle.

Looks like this door was created inside the cave.

The dungeon territory is still only that room with the throne so this cave was probably not something created by the dungeon.

After confirming that there weren't any living creatures in the surrounding, I started walking towards the cave exit— no, probably the entrance, where sunlight was shining through.

My footsteps echoed in the cave.

The air inside the cave was chilly and felt nice to the skin. Probably won't need an air conditioner during summertime.

Before long, I reached the entrance and my view spread —

— and became perfectly clear, with the endless blue skies in front of me.

Covering a part of the view, was a big, green forest.

The wind blowed, shaking the trees and, if one were to properly listen, they could also hear the sound of the leaves touching each other.

Illuminated by the light of the sun, the large, sparkling river went long, long ahead.

The horizon was ever spreading and piercing through the clouds was the grandeur of mountain range, overwhelming the beholder.

I wonder if that enormous blue, spreading wide across the horizon, was the sea.

At the distant skies, an island-like figure floated, and from there, a flowing waterfall poured endlessly onto the vast land, creating a rainbow.

“Uwoo...”

To the beauty of the scene which spread in front of me, my eyes were left wide open.

What stretched out before me was something my poor vocabulary could never possibly express, a mystical yet majestic figure of a world.

...I wonder, If I too, can fly in these skies before long, with those wings. It would surely feel amazing.

By the way, I do not currently have the wings on my back.

When I was wondering if I could either fold it up properly or make it small as it would be a hindrance while sleeping, it just disappeared.

These wings, which are created by this power, this magic I do not yet know much about, feel like they could be created and put out by will so I left it out after that. What a convenient body.

After a while of being entranced by the scene, I returned to myself and started checking the geography of the surroundings, which was my initial objective.

This place seems to be halfway on top of a mountain. Even though I say halfway, I did see such a scenery just now, so it might even be actually quite high. There seem to be... no human habitations nearby.

As I turned back to face towards the cave, a steep cliff was before me.

Looks like the cave I had just come out from was underneath the cliff.

Ah... it does not seem like I would be able to advance much further this way. For now, I would like to go up but...

While pondering such things, I started walking to look for a place from where I could climb up.

Chapter 5

My First Encounter was with a Supreme Dragon

“Hoho, this is quite convenient, this ability.”

Shelmi herb: Has great effect as a medicine. Also has a lot of mana in it.

When I concentrate on a pretty flower sprouting at the root of a tree, its details just pop up inside my head.

So this is the effect of *Analyze*.

It seems like I acquired the analyze skill thanks to my *chuunibyou* like left eye. So it was of some use after all. Yosh!

Baktengdak: Explodes when eaten.

Woah, there are some dangerous things sprouting around here.

I have been analyzing all the things I have come across till now and this being a different world, there are quite a lot of interesting stuff here.

I also found some vegetables and fruits for food so it looks like I won't completely need to depend on DP for food.

And speaking of my initial objective of checking the geography of the surroundings, I stopped caring about it midway.

The reason for that is that getting out of the dungeon added a new option to the menu, called *Map*.

Really, Menu-san is the best.

It seems to keep updating the geography information of everything I can see. So I just kept going freely, enjoying the view and the map was being completed on its own.

The presence of any enemy in the region, it seems like I can sense if anything enters

the dungeon. But, this feature too can be upgraded with DP to display any and all the living things with hostile intent on the map.

I don't quite have the necessary amount of DP for it but it seems very useful so I do plan to get it gradually.

After exploring the surroundings, I decided to turn back since I am afraid of something happening to the dungeon while I am far away.

— That creature, suddenly appeared.

At first, I thought it was just a huge island.

When I heard flapping noise of wings far away, I reflexively ended up looking that way and spotted something big flying in the sky.

The moment I had thought 'There's something there,' it abruptly started gliding down with absurd speed, decelerating just above ground and landed elegantly.

"Uwaa—"

The wind pressure from the wind flaps hit me all at once and I instinctively closed my eyes.

When the wind had stopped, and I timidly opened my eyes, it was there— not an island, but an enormous, silver-scaled beautiful dragon.

Name: Leficios

Race: Ancient Dragon

Class: Supreme Dragon

Level: 987

Title: Supreme Dragon

...Wha?

Oi.

Oi oi oi oi, eh, are you kidding me?

Wai-eh-just wait a moment. Please, just wait a bit.

I thought I was completely aware of the fact that this world is different from my previous world and much more cruel; I had resolved to also encounter monsters but my first encounter being a dragon is just beyond my expectations.

And not only that, it also doesn't seem to be just any dragon, the race says *Ancient Dragon* and on top of that the class is *Supreme Dragon*. What is the meaning of this? This is way worse than a shitty video game.

In addition to that, what is with the '*Near Max Level!*' kind of level. That's a whopping 987 times my level, isn't it?! I mean, it is, since I am just level 1.

About it's ability scores, maybe because the difference in level is too big, I can't seem to read it.

...Ah, calm down, Yuki. Don't panic, nothing good comes out of panicking, as granny used to say. Well, I don't really have a granny, though. (*'Baccha ga itte ta-parody of a phrase in the anime, Otome Hime which aired in Niconico.'*)

It might also be possible that the levels here are generally pretty high like they are in the inflated net-games. Well, it still doesn't change the fact that it's a threat but it gives me a little room.

While I was thinking that, I noticed that I couldn't analyze the *Class* so when I tried analyzing the *Title*, the details were displayed,

Supreme Dragon: The one who establishes dominance over the world, the strongest of the dragon race. Immense adjustment to *Status: Supreme Leader's Aura, Unique Class: Supreme Dragon*.

Yep, seems about right.

No matter how you look at it, it looks like the being who is at the top of this world. I knew that, you shithead.

...I see, it makes sense now. I thought it was kind of strange.

That around this area, even an amateur like me could find edible plants here and there with analyze but there was absolutely no presence of any living creature.

To the point I was kinda disappointed to not find any monster around the area even

after being told that there were some.

They had probably realized it. That a being of a completely different level was living here.

I mean, of course everyone would run away if such a ultra-living-thing-monster-ish being existed here.

While I was lost for words to the immense presence and grandness of the dragon, it opened its mouth while looking at me—

“You... are a demon, and a really high ranking one at that?” the dragon started talking.

“_____”

Kyeeeeeeeeeeeeehhhh, it taaaaaallkeeeeeeddddd!!

I was just about to shout out instinctively but stopped myself. I took a deep breath, calmed myself down, and started talking to not let it sense my nervousness.

“...Ah, yes. I don’t know about high ranking but it seems like I am a demon.”

My race is arch demon after all.

There’s no doubt I am a demon.

By the way, this parallel world too, like any other parallel world, has elves, dwarfs, furries with ears and tails and demons like myself.

I really want to touch the ears of a furry.

...Calm down, Yuki. You are starting to escape reality.

“? That is a quite odd speaking style. Well, that is fine. More importantly, what is a higher demon doing at a place like this?” the dragon said not even trying to cover that it was on alert.

It does not really matter much but, it had a more beautiful voice than I had expected. I could feel that it was a female.

“E-even if you ask something like that... exploring?”

“...What an odd demon.”

From its voice, the dragon seemed a bit surprised but it didn't seem like it would come attacking me as of now.

...Could it be that? That the demons in this world don't have opposition towards its surroundings?

Having replied more calmly than I thought, such a thought had popped in my mind.

I actually did not know much about that from the memory I received from the dungeon.

I could more or less differentiate between the wildlife — the monsters and the humans and demi-human who have intelligence. But, as I had also said before, from the dungeon's perspective, they are all akin to devils who come to kill it. The dungeon did not have any sort of knowledge about them except that.

I had completely thought that the demons were thought of as evil, judging from my previous world knowledge...

...This, maybe it will let me go—

“...Well, that is fine. Either way, this is my territory. I will just exterminate you if you came to invade.”

I did not intend on doing such a thing, please forgive me!

At the same time my faint hope was crushed to pieces, a murderous intent had started to fill the surroundings, even someone like me who had never been in a brawl properly could tell.

I had cold sweats all over my face.

This is bad.

Frankly speaking, this is extremely bad.

For what it matters, I had thought about what to do when I encounter monsters but I surely did not think of encountering a dragon from the very beginning.

What should I do? What will be good?

While I was using my brain in full throttle, which was not used very often instead of when I was learning game conquering tactics, to try to come up with a breakthrough solution —- Using my sense of smell, which along with all my other 5 senses had been oddly sharp since becoming a demon, I caught a sweet fragrant coming out from the dragon's mouth.

—-This scent is—-!

“—-Wait!!”

I sign with my hands towards the dragon who was already in a position to attack,

“...What?”

The dragon, looking like I had just killed its enthusiasm, did seem like it would at least listen to what I have to say. I stopped my movements.

Ah, that is a relief that it didn't come killing me without saying anything.

“I do not have the strength to even be able to fight with you. But, I also do not want to die... And so, let's make a deal.”

“Oho? A deal, you say?”

“Yes. You like sweet stuff, don't you?”

When I said that, the dragon became quite flustered.

“A-wha-I don't know what you're talking about. It-it's not like I have been attacking the beehive at the temple for honey for lunch!”

Ah... this dragon, it is the type which can't lie properly.

Rather, why is it getting flustered? If you like sweet food, you do not need to be ashamed about it.

“No, like, I can really smell the honey from your mouth. Like that one yellow bear who wears red shirt and keeps having honey.”

“Th-there is a bear like that...?”

“Yep. —And, so. And to you, who loves sweet food, I have just the perfect item.”

Saying that, I pulled out a bar of chocolate from the tear in the air.

Actually, I had brought this along side some other stuff I had exchanged for DP before heading out of the throne.

Chocolate can make you feel full after all. I heard it was best for mountain climbing or stuff like these.

“Wh-what is that...? It smells quite good but...”

“This is a sweet called chocolate. For now, try eating one.”

After saying that, I tore apart the aluminium foil of the bar of chocolate and threw it towards the dragon. It caught the bar skillfully and put the whole thing in its mouth.

“—!! How sweet...!!! To-to think such a sweet food existed in this world...!!”

The dragon opened its eyes wide as if it was hit by lightning.

...It does not really matter but this dragon, it has quite rich expressions.

It kinda felt really majestic at first but after seeing it become so happy with the chocolate, I had felt relieved for a while but... There is no mistaking that the difference between us is huge and it could kill me just by touching me lightly so being conscious of that, I continued with the negotiations.

“Now then, here is the real deal. I can make this sweet. And I might be wrong but, I am probably the only one who can make it in this world. You have not seen anything like it before, right?”

“Ye-yes, that is true. It is my first time seeing anything like it.”

It would be a different story if there were other people like me in this world.

And even if that is true, there's no doubt that the number of such people will be extremely low.

Much less someone who is a dungeon master on top of being a demon lord.

"Which means, if you just kill me now, you won't be able to have this chocolate anymore. But, if you let me live, you can come here anytime you wish and have chocolates."

It would cost me some DP but that is still better than being eaten alive here.

Moreover, it seems like every living creature around here ran away because of this dragon so if it comes to the dungeon to have chocolate we could avoid monsters. At least that is what I expect.

"I only have two conditions. To not kill me. And that cave a little far off from here where I live — to recognize it and not destroy it."

"...Mmmmm"

Wearing a conflicted expression, the dragon pondered.

It seems like it was enough to change its intentions.

This – it can probably work...

"I am not asking for much, right? If you just let me live, you can eat this. I don't want to die so that will save me. Literally. It's a win-win situation."

"Uuu... what is that?"

"It means we both profit from it. How about it?"

Then the dragon kept staring at me fixedly for a while, opening and closing its mouth trying to say something. But before long, it made up its mind and said,

"...Well, I guess it is fine. I understand. I will let you live."

Alright!

I was about to give a winning pose there but I held myself back as the negotiations

were still not over.

“In return, you will let me have that chocolate-something, right?”

“Yep. Well, of course, it would be impossible to make a lot at once. Your body is huge after all. It would be hard to satisfy your needs.”

“...That is true. Hmm, I understand.”

After saying that, the dragon nodded once and light came shining from its body—

—Before long, when the light had disappeared, a silver-haired girl stood there.

“Eh?”

魔王まおうになったので、
ダンジョンダンジョン造って
人外娘人外娘と
ほのぼのほのぼのする

ドラゴンが銀髪の少女に――

「どうした？
間抜け面をしおって」

「……え？」



A beautiful girl, with pretty silver hair as if a craftsman perfectly made it so. From her appearance, she looked 13 to 14 years old. However— the two things fundamentally different from humans were, two horns coming out from her head and a long tail coming out from above her waist.

...This dragon, it really was a female.

“What happened? You’re making a stupid face like a goblin.”

“...Ah, n-no... I see you can also be like that, huh...”

“I have lived for quite a long time after all. Of course I would know something as simple as taking a human’s shape. With this figure, I won’t have to eat as much too.”

When I tried analyzing again, her race name was still ancient dragon.

...I see, so that is also okay in this world...

“Oi, demon, as promised! Give me more chocolate already!”

The dragon said, raising both of her hands overhead like a spoiled brat.

To hell with the dignity it had in the beginning.

“Wa-wait, for now, wear this.”

Saying that, I took of my T-shirt and threw it over to the dragon.

“Nn? What? Your clothes?”

“That appearance is like poison to my eyes.”

The dragon who had transformed into a girl was completely naked.

I mean, of course, since she was not wearing anything while she was in dragon form.

She seems more like a younger sister from her appearance but it might have been quite bad if she had grown a bit more.

“Well, if you say so. It would not be so fun to have someone come attacking me for this appearance. I will wear that but in return, gimme that brown food —”

“I got it, I got it! I will let you have some so just wear it already!”

Chapter 6

The Freeloading Supreme Dragon

“Hmmm... I see, so you are a Demon Lord. One who is recently born at that too.”

Said the dragon girl with great interest, while looking around the throne room. I gave her my top so I am basically half-naked. This would have been quite a concern if this occurred on Earth.

As I didn't know how she would react after knowing I am a demon lord so I didn't plan on bringing her here at first but... I had to eventually as she kept nagging about wanting to eat the chocolate right away.

I can't access the DP Catalogue if I am not in dungeon territory.

But, judging from her reaction just now, it doesn't seem like she follows a creed like 'All demon lords must be annihilated!' or something so I probably don't need to be so cautious.

...For now, I guess we need clothes. I should get her some proper one.

And so when I started looking for one in the DP Catalogue where they were all lined up, I found one immediately.

Seriously, this thing has everything. If I keep on using it like this I will probably run out of points very soon. Soon I will have used up half of what was initially given to me so I should be more careful.

I got a plain one-piece dress (80DP), as she wasn't wearing any underwear and was barefooted so underwear (30DP) and a matching sandal.

“Do you get these?” I asked as I threw them towards her.

“Mm, thanks. I had completely forgotten that it gets really chilly when I take the human form... The mana I had not felt from the dungeon just a while earlier started overflowing the moment I entered this room after all. The only one living in this one room of a just born dungeon would definitely be a just born demon lord. I see, so that's

why demons suddenly appeared in my territory once again.”

Leficios grabbed the clothes, threw the my T-shirt back at me and answered while changing.

...I was properly facing the other way, okay?

But even still, as expected. She found out in a moment.

She said something about the dungeon’s mana but are there that many different kind of mana?

There was also a mana written on my status... going to have to inspect that later on. Since mana exists, magic also probably exists. I also want to try using some magic.

“——Hm? Wait a minute, do demons just appear out of nowhere like that?”

“Of course, most are born normally but demons are originally beings who are just born suddenly at places where the source of magic — magical essence is very dense. Normally, the demons’ cores are just crystallized magical essence — magic gem, but in your case, the same time the dungeon was born, it took magical essence from all the surroundings and became the core to give birth to you, the managing demon lord. The magical essence around here is pretty dense after all.”

...Demons are quite the odd being.

“But, yea, this dungeon is a pretty good one.” She said touching the dungeon here and there.

“Nn? Aren’t most of them like this?” I said while wearing my T-shirt.

“Completely different. The dungeons I destroyed up till now to kill time were just mere caves with some decoration... Ah, no, now that I think about it, there was this idiot demon who had lived in a weird looking castle with over the top decorations saying something like *‘I am the world’s strongest!!’*”

Uwaah, this dragon was doing stuff like that to kill time...?

Whew, glad she is fond of sweets. If not, I would have been dead long ago.

But, she did say that she did not have any intention of killing me in the first place and was just trying to threaten me to move away from this place.

But if I went against her she was probably going to kill me.

And that's why she did not come attacking immediately and was so slow.

And also, it seems like she was not wondering whether to kill me or not when I offered the deal, but rather if she should give me the cave in her territory.

Well, as long as my heart, the dungeon core, is still here, I can't escape so that was probably the best outcome.

But, I see, so this dungeon, this room, is of pretty good quality.

Aren't you glad, my dungeon? You were complimented by this absurdly strong supreme dragon.

"By the way, what happened to that idiot demon?"

"He came asking for a fight so I turned him, along with his castle, into ashes."

Well, yep, I guess, that would happen.

I wonder what was the source of that idiot's confidence.

I'm curious! (Watashi, kininarimasu—Hyouka parody)

While I was wondering that, it probably showed on my face, so the dragon let out a sigh and continued,

"Let me just say this, you are the minority here. Generally, the demons are a tribe whose sense of values are completely dependent on strength. And because of that, not only does the war among themselves not stop, they are also always challenging strong beings from other races to fights. They are extremely annoying to deal with."

"I see... so demons are just a race of muscle-brained idiots..."

By the looks of it, they will surely be on not shaky terms with other races. Leave me out of it.

"Muscle-brained?"

“It’s an expression to describe simple idiots who seems to have their brain made up of muscle as well.”

“Hoho, that’s an interesting way to put it. Exactly. They have been muscle-brained for over a thousand years.”

“Ah... so... you are over a thousand years old.”

“Hmm, that’s right. I am called the Legendary Dragon among the humans” said the dragon with pride.

The difference in scale is so big that I can’t even grasp it but... Yep, considering all that, you’re pretty childish, aren’t you?

Also liking sweet food.

“——Well, for the time being, here, your desired food.” I said while handing over the bar chocolate I exchanged.

“I have been waiting! This is it, this! ——Mmmmm—I can’t resist it- this sweetness!”

“And you, I have a name which isn’t dragon. Call me by Leficios.” Said the dragon Leficious while savoring each bite of the chocolate she had ate with one bite earlier.

“Then, it’s long so I will call you Lefy. My name is Yuki.”

“Le-lefy?”

“Hmm? What? You didn’t like it?”

“N-no, it’s not like that. Just that... it’s the first time I have met someone who calls me like that.”

“Ahh... well, I guess that is true.”

After all, she is a dragon who has lived more than a thousand years and is a legend among the humans.

Of course there wouldn’t be anyone who could be so overly-familiar with her.

The reason I can relax is because she just feels like the daughter of a relative to me now.

Where did all the dignity go?

"We-well, that is fine.— More importantly, that. I will live here then." Lefy said casually.

".....Wha?"

"This place, looks comfortable to live in. The nest I have been living in was a bit inconvenient and I was just hesitating over changing it. This is just fine."

"N-no, wait just a moment. It isn't something you should decide so—"

"No?"

"...Now, ju-just wait for a while, it isn't so simp—"

"No?"

Coming close, she said with a teary-eyed expression.

".....I-it's okay..."

"Alright, then it is decided!" she said with a smile and started eating the remaining of her chocolate in a good mood.

...We-well, I did say okay but, it is not so bad as a result.

She looks like a little girl now but she is a being in a position thought to be the highest in this world.

If such a being stayed here, the dungeons safety greatly increases.

That's right, I gave my permission after a lot of thinking. Definitely not because I thought her pestering was cute. Definitely not.

.....It is definitely not that, alright?

—————Very suddenly, but just like that, a freeloading supreme dragon started living in the dungeon.

Chapter 7

First Battle

The following day.

I was at the cave, in front of the throne room.

“Alright, let’s do this.”

I opened up the *Menu* and clicked on *Dungeon*.

The reason I came here was to check out the functions of the dungeon, which I had to postpone until now. I was made the demon lord to manage the dungeon but not even once has *Dungeon* function been used.

The freeloading dragon, Lefy, was still asleep at the throne room. She was being noisy about giving her a futon as well so I exchanged some DP for it and got her one. It seemed like she really liked it, judging by her sleeping like a log.

The first feature I will use is the *Dungeon Territory Expansion*.

It came asking for the specific range of expansion so when I selected this cave—

“...Ohh, nice.”

I see, so this is the dungeon’s magical power.

There were no visible changes but... I wonder if saying that the air changing would be an appropriate description. The cool atmosphere here before, which was perfect for summertime, has now become kinda cozy.

It happened so suddenly that I was able to feel the change.

When I tried looking into the map too, I realised that it’s properly listed as the new dungeon territory. Nice, let’s expand more and more from now on.

I want to increase the dungeon layers... but I am still a bit short on DP for that much expansion. I guess I can do that later.

By the way, when I checked the DP this morning, it had increased a lot.

It is probably because Lefy is being treated as an intruder rather than a subordinate. Last time I checked yesterday, it had gone below 500 but now it's even more than 2000. I had worried about what would happen when she started saying she wanted to live here but, this is not bad. In fact, this is actually pretty good. I would have to deal with her with these DP but this way I can treat her properly.

"Hmm, for now, I guess I will try summoning something."

To be honest, I don't really think we need anything more than a *supreme dragon* but to check it out, I opened up the *Monster Catalogue* menu from the *Dungeon* tab and skimmed over it.

It's my first time so I will just try summoning one which takes the least DP.

With that in mind, I clicked on the name at the bottom of the list.

The moment I pressed it, light-like particles started gathering in front of me, forming a shape — and before long, the light cleared up, revealing a perfectly circular, transparent, bluish figure, about one size bigger than a small dog.

—It was a slime.

"Oohh,... it's cuter than I expected."

When I tried rubbing it, it looked like it had recognized me as the summoner and became playful. Very adorable. It feels like the pet dog we had in the house.

"Alright, from now on, your name is Shii!"

Name: Shii

Class: N/A

Race: Slime

Level: 1

HP: 11/11

MP: 2/2

Strength: 15

Resistance: 37

Agility: 26

Mana: 11

Dexterity: 52

Luck: 110

Skill Point: 0

Skills: Predation Lv1, Regeneration Lv1

Title: The Demon Lord's underling

Yep, weak. As expected of the weakest.

But still, it's fine. It's cute so I will let it be. It shall be my pet.

According to the wiki inside my brain, it looks like these guys do not need food as they feed off the dungeon's mana.

Isn't this just the best? Having a pet which does not need to be looked after. It's probably to avoid wasting time feeding all the monsters when I have a ton of them here.

.....Ah? Wa-wait a moment, I just realized but... when I look a little closer, this guy, has higher luck than me...

.....We-well, it's probably that. I need to think differently. It's not that my luck is low or anything, it just appears low because this slime's luck is high. Not like I am lower than the slime but rather the slime just has high luck.

Yep...

And while I was feeling a little down about my luck being so low, the slime crawled on the surface and came rubbing its body on my leg.

"You... are you consoling me?"

Jumping up and down, Shii displayed his approval.

S-so cute! Did I ever have a pet this cute before?

...Yep, you are right. I was wrong. Luck does not really matter, I got to meet you like this too.

That's right. I am not unlucky. A person becomes unlucky when they think of

themselves as unlucky.

And also, if I am always unlucky, then I will relatively feel even happier than normal when something good happens. When I think of it like that, maybe I am more lucky than others. (?)

Thank you, Shii. I have come across one of the truths of the universe.

Alright! Enough with the inspection for today! As Shii has appeared today, I shall deepen our bond today!



And after a while, when I was playing with my new comrade, Shii, suddenly the map appeared and displayed hostile existence.

“Gururuuu...” and at the same time, I hear a roar of a beast-like creature from the cave entrance.

I raised my head and there, in front of my vision, was a figure — a demon-like wolf which had three heads, and all three of them were glaring at me with a brutal, distorted face. A monster.

It had a big body; About one size larger than the big dogs.

Name: N/A

Race: Cerberus

Class: N/A

Level: 32

I read the enemy's information with *analyze*.

So this is... a monster.

This one, too, maybe because it is of a higher level than me, I can't read all of its status. Towards the first intruder, tension ran throughout my body.

Then, at that moment, as expected of a monster itself, Shii got in front of me even while being afraid and tried to intimidate the enemy. It does not really have a face but I somehow feel like it was glaring at the three-headed dog.

It is like a Po*emon battle through and through.

“Ohh! You’re looking great, Shii!”

To that, Shii jumped and looked like it was saying ‘Leave it to me!’

...You’re right, it does not matter if the enemy is of a higher level. We will just remove everything that blocks our path!

A story of how the lower class dominates the upper class — that’s pretty nice.

And also, I liked to not level up my Po*emon too much so that I could defeat the higher leveled ones with strategy and skills.

Show me your way of life, Shii!

“Alright, go, Shii! Use quick attack!”

Like lightning — well, of course it did not go like that but, Shii leaped towards the enemy determined—

—But, got repelled by a quick kick of the cerberus’ front leg.

Shii went flying and hit a cave wall, fell down and did not move.

“-?! Uwaaaaahhhh, you bastard!! What did you do to my boy?!!”

Thinking rationally, since I summoned the weakest monster, there was no way it could win against an overwhelmingly stronger monster but... Having my blood rise to my head, I yelled while going straight at it without any caution and landed a yakuza kick to its body.

The shitty dog, as if it had no intention to even dodge my attack, just stood there—and its body exploded scattering everywhere.

“...Wha?”

It’s blood and entrails scattered everywhere making the surrounding all red.

Bathing in it, I was planning on attacking some more but to the unexpected result, my anger faded away and I became calm.

...Eh, that is it? Really?

The dog which had now become a grotesque lump of meat seemed like it had completely died and it didn't move an inch.

I did not quite feel anything about killing a living creature.

This... what?

I did not feel any danger like I had with my sharp senses but having a difference of 30 levels, I thought it was definitely stronger than me but...

—-I thought it didn't move because it thought that my attacks won't do a thing to it but perhaps it could not even keep up with my attack?

I did not have anything to compare my status with but, is it actually pretty high?

Thinking that, I confirmed my status once again.

Name: Yuki

Race: Arch Demon

Class: Demon Lord

Level: 12

HP: 2320/2320

MP: 6900/6900

Strength: 672

Resistance: 701

Agility: 574

Mana: 915

Dexterity: 1273

Luck: 70

Skill point: 17

Unique Skill: Mana Eye, Language Translation

Skill: Item Box, Analyze Lv1, Martial Arts Lv1

Title: Demon Lord of a Parallel World

DP: 2250

Maybe because I had just fought with an opponent of far higher level than me, my status had gone up quite a bit. There's also *Martial Arts* in my skills now.

There is no change in the luck though...

Leaving that aside, these numbers might be far higher than I expected.

...No, but even still, there is always someone higher. There's also a super being living right here.

I can't bear having those all over the place but I don't want to get carried away and turn into ashes by challenging Lefy to a fight like that muscle-brained demon.

Being too prideful with high stats and getting killed saying, 'It can't be... there's no way...?!' seems exactly like a path a villain of a game would follow. Using my second chance at life by doing something so stupid would be too wasteful.

—Ah, this is bad, this isn't the time to be thinking that.

"Shii!"

Clearing the status window, I hurried to Shii, who was blown away. But, fortunately, it seems his HP was not completely lost and he was slowly regenerating using his ability.

"I am glad..."

Seeing Shii like that, I let out a sigh of relief.

Sorry, having you do something so reckless...

As one would expect, having that as your first battle opponent was asking for too much.

But, as if to not make me worry, Shii jumped about, showing that it is okay. Well, he has been jumping like that from the start but it just feels that way so I can't help it.

Shii is my pet. You don't make your pet fight. You love it. I should do the fights.

That's right. I should be more composed.

I had fought with that dog out of anger just now but at this rate I will be carried off my feet.

I shall make '*Stay cool*' my motto. I probably need that the most now.

Thinking that, I sat there until Shii finished recovering.

Chapter 8

Let's use magic (1)

"Hmmm..."

Sitting on the throne, which I had gotten used to, I groaned at the menu screen.

"What happened? Looking at nothing with such enthusiasm."

Lefy, who had been saying something like 'Ohh, ohh... I hadn't really dealt with slimes up close but... when you look at it like this, they are pretty cute...' a while ago, asked with a puzzled expression.

"No, noth—Hm? *Nothing?*"

Can she not see the menu screen?

"Yep. It looks to me as if you're gazing off somewhere with an absent min— Ah, I see, were you looking at your status? If I remember right, you had the analyze skill too." she said agreeing.

"From the way you said that, you have it too, Lefy?"

"Yep. Pretty convenient, that. As you level up the skill, you can look through all things with that. Well, there's only a handful of people who have leveled it up to that, though."

"...Hey, yesterday, did you not realize that I was a demon lord first time after coming here? If you have analyze then you should have realized that from the first place, right?"

"No, at first, I just thought you were some worthless demon who had came into my territory without thinking so I didn't even bother analyzing. After that, my head was filled with the chocolate so I completely forgot. Ah, Yuki, I want to eat choco."

"You will definitely have cavity soon."

“What are you saying? I am an ancient dragon, you know? There won’t be any disorder in my state.”

So you’re treating cavity as disorder in state, I see.
I opened up the DP Catalogue and threw that towards Lefy.

“Mm? What’s this?”

“Cookie.”

“Let’s see... Wafuuu! This is delicious too! As I thought, I was right to shift here! Futon feels really good to sleep on and I didn’t know it would feel so nice to live in human form.”

Wafuu...?

I couldn’t help but give a bitter smile as Lefy was merry like a child, munching on the cookie.

Anyway, the most important thing is she liked it. Why? Because it is cheaper than chocolates.

“Well? What were you pondering about while gazing at your status?”

“No, just that, I wanted to be able to use magic. My mana numbers are pretty high so I should be able to use it but...”

I had come to that thought after looking at the gory scene defeating that dog earlier.

After all, I am a person who barely got into any fight in the previous world.

My physical skills seem to be quite high but, there are probably thousands of monsters stronger than that dog and—most importantly, I won’t be able to win with just that against human or demi-humans whose occupation itself is fighting.

Amongst them, there are the demons who are supposed to be my ally but there might probably be some enemies there as well.

There is the supreme dragon in my dungeon but, if I just keep on saying that and depend on her, I will probably get nowhere.

I, for one, know that the kings who have the mental attitude like ‘What kind of a king

are you, if you are not full of pride?!' are the ones who die first.

And no matter what I say, this world is very cruel. And if that's the case, having strength won't be a bad thing and as I am in another world, I thought I should might as well try learning magic.

Moreover, as far as the status says, my mana is overwhelmingly more than my other stats.

I should make use of it.

But, I could also just summon strong underlings for that.

Well, one thing or the other, in short, I just want to use magic. That's it.

—Just that, I do not know how to use it.

I tried doing '*Kame*ameha!*' and '*The Wor*d*' but they all failed.

Well, that is actually a joke but as I acquired the martial arts skill after yakuza kicking the dog, I just thought that I could maybe also acquire some magic skills if I tried like that...

Or rather, first of all, what exactly is mana?

I could feel the dungeon's mana so I thought maybe I could also feel the mana inside me but, nope, I could not.

I also tried meditating but all I could hear was Lefy and Shii playing. I wonder if my approach is wrong.

"Hmmm. I guess you could say yours is higher than the average. —Oh? You seem to have leveled up. Did you beat a monster or something while I was asleep?"

"Something along the lines... Hey, just for future reference but, how does my status look?"

"They are pretty diverse but, yea, I guess you are either equal or stronger than the monsters living around here. There are a lot stronger than you too though. But even still, it's not even a hundredth of my numbers!" Lefy said while laughing.

Not even a hundredth...?

While I was dumbfounded by the difference in strength, after having finished the cookie I gave her, wearing a somewhat sad expression, Lefy looked at me.

“Well, if it’s just magic, I could also teach you. But, not for fre—”

I silently brought out another cookie and threw it to the supreme dragon.

“Hmm! Very well! I shall make you into a great magician of the century!”

Glad she is so easy to deal with.

Chapter 9

Let's use magic (2)

“Alright, let's start with sensing the mana. Hold out both of your hands.”

Sweeping off the bits of cookie off of her, Lefy said while putting both of her hands forward.

By the way, Shii ate the cover and bits of the cookie Lefy swept off.

Monsters summoned with DP should not need food but... As he was eating it deliciously on his own, it is probably like a snack to him.

I was wondering what I would do about the garbage but this actually takes care of that problem.

“Eh? O-oh.”

Being puzzled, I did as she told and she grabbed my hands, then—

“Ohh? Ohhhh? Ohhhhhhh-?!”

A somewhat intense power came flowing in from Lefy's soft, right hand.

That power circulated inside my body, then it came passing through my right hand this time and returned back to her through her left hand.

It kept going in circles between me and Lefy.



So this is —- mana.

A completely different nature of mana from the dungeon's one, a tremendous, violently rushing torrent of mana.

I felt like if I lost my focus even just a bit, I would stagger and collapse to the rampaging mana circling throughout my body.

—After that situation had gone on for a few minutes, Lefy started decreasing the amount of mana flowing into me until it reached zero and then let go of my hand.

I immediately fell to my knees and had to grasp for air.

My heart was pounding like crazy.

It was only just a few minutes but I felt so exhausted. It was as if I had just sprinted with all my strength.

“Yep, so it is okay.” Lefy said while looking at me fascinated.

“O-oka...?”

Slowly regaining my posture, I asked her. To which she answered quite indifferently,

“Just now, I forcibly activated your mana with mine. And if you hadn't endured that mana, your head might've exploded and you would have died after all.”

“You—you were doing something so terrifying?!”

When I flared up against her like that, she just fluttered her hands as if she did not care much.

“I just judged that since you are a higher demon you would be okay. And you were okay like I thought, right? Now, before you forget that feeling, try doing it by yourself. You can probably do it pretty easily now.”

Not being fully satisfied with the situation, I stood up and closed my eyes to try—

——O-ohh... I can feel it.

I didn't feel it even the slightest before but now I can. It's probably because Lefy directly flowed it within me.

Around the pit of my stomach, I can certainly feel my mana.

Then, I tried moving it just like Lefy had done a while ago.

I can't really properly describe it but... when I tried moving the mana like you would move a spoon in a glass of water, at first it had some friction and was slow but after a while, it kept getting faster and faster and started flowing throughout my whole body like blood through vessels.

As I was doing it myself this time rather than being controlled from outside, I did not feel the dizziness from before.

Like that feeling when you don't feel sick when you are the one driving but feel sick when you are on the passenger seat.

Well, I never really drove a car so I wouldn't know, though.

"Yep, that's good. That's the stage where your mana is activated. It's the foundation for magic."

Lefy kept on talking but, because I was focusing on circulating the mana through my body, I could not properly reply.

"Next. Listen properly, imagine what I say in your mind. I will tell you the chant afterwards so repeat after me then."

I nodded.

"First, imagine an enormous land and a vast field."

The overwhelming mother nature surrounding the dungeon came up in my mind.

"Amongst all that, one flower. You will tear its stem and hold it in your hand."

Suddenly the scale became much smaller, and I tried picking up the flower at my feet — in my mind.

"Were you able to imagine it? Then, hold out your hand and chant— *Create Bloom*"

"Create Bloom"

Just as I said that, all the mana rushing about my body flowed into my left hand and kept condensing.

And by the time when it had settled into place, I opened my eyes which I had closed for so long and—

“Wah—such a pretty flower!— Wait, why?!”

I reflexively threw the flower to the ground. Well, though I said threw, I just gently put it down.

“What, are you not satisfied?”

“No, I surely did think it was amazing to use magic at first! But there are other things, right? Why flower for the first time?”

“This one was just the introduction. Now, try imagining a fire. No need for chanting. Imagine your mana forming a fiery shape. Vividly.”

“...Got it.”

When I tried doing just as I was told, activating my mana once again, it felt somewhat smoother than before.

—Fire, eh?

For the imagination... I will go with that. A lighter.

It was easier to imagine the Zippo lighter which was in my house.

A red coloured light swayed on top of my hand.

A flint turned into a spark, then as if it caught oil, it ignited.

“Ohhh...!”

I ended up letting out my astonishment.

S-so cool!

Well, it wouldn't be wrong if someone were to say it is dull but, the important thing is, I have fire coming out from my index finger.

If you're a man, you will definitely be in high spirits.
Everyone probably tried creating fire from their finger at least once in their life. Yep.
So it is definitely not that I am childish.

"Hmm... You did it easily. As I thought, demons excel at magic."

"Is that so?"

Being somewhat pleased as I was able to make the flame go out and appear again, I asked Lefy.

Maybe because I had imagined a Zippo lighter, every time I created the fire, it came out with a spark.
I don't really have to make it so real to that point but, I guess, it's fine since it looks cool.

"Yep. It is true that I forced your mana pathways open but, even after that, using magic is not something you can do that easily. Your demon race characteristic is probably allowing you to be so good at it."

Well, I guess that could be it.

I was able to use it far easily than I had expected but when I think about it now, it is probably something you need to practice for months to use normally.
From what I have heard from Lefy, it seems like demons are originally beings who are born from magical essence so that is probably why their bodies have a higher affinity with magic.
After all, someone like me, who came from a world where magic did not exist, was able to use it instantly.

Well, those stuff do not really matter. More importantly, this fire magic.

I wonder... If I could adjust its power.

According to Lefy, it seems like the image in your head seems to be important so... If I imagine a large flame emitting from my hand.

And then, while I was imagining that—it happened.

“—Uwoooooohh-?!”

Suddenly, intense flames erupted from the tip of my finger.

I panicked and moved the finger which was close to me away but still I could feel the astounding heat. Some of my bangs might have gotten burned.

I could see Shii at the edge of my view, who was jumping up and down as if it was saying something like ‘What, what?!’

“Nuuwahh?! Y-you, stop pouring mana into that!!”

“H-h-how do you do that?!”

“Stop the circulation!!”

I immediately did as I was told and reversed the circulation to stop it. The flame, which was now like a fire breath of a dragon slowly went out as if it ran out of gas.

And before long, it didn’t come out anymore. Lefy, who had assumed a distance from me when the flame started bursting out, let out a sigh of relief and came back.

“Geez... you scared me there, you idiot.”

“Ah, ahh... me too. I thought my heart would come out. So-sorry.”

“Be careful about your mana adjustments. Because you excel at magic, that also means that you will be able to bring out more mana comparatively than others. If you get ahead of yourself and charge all your mana in magic, you might also end up hurting yourself.”

“I-I understand.”

And truly, I was this close to burning my face to ashes.

...I guess I will put fire magic off for a while till I understand it well.

“...Well, for now, that is magic. What’s important is the user’s imagination. That is both the foundation and secret to it. The demons and humans misunderstand it and concentrate more on the chanting but the only thing the chant does is assist. It’s one

thing if the user plans on using a huge magic which needs a ton of mana but you don't need to pay it much heed since you are a demon who excels at magic."

"Imagination, eh...? Certainly, I got into quite the pickle just now because of it. I will be more careful."

"Yep, do that."

And with that, as the conversation had calmed down a bit, I tried asking Lefy,

"Hey, with this, I could produce a flower and flames but, can other things also be produced with magic?"

"That depends on the user's talent. At the very least, I think you have the aptitude for earth and water too but, we would need to test the others."

"What else is there?"

"The basics are earth, water, fire and wind. But these are just categorized to be simply understood, they are not all. There's also time, light and dark and we can't know if you can use these unless we try. And so, you, I will keep on watch so you need to try some stuff.



After that, I tried all the other elements excluding earth and fire under Lefy's supervision.

Water: created water of perfect temperature for a bath

Wind: created wind perfect to dry oneself after a bath

Other elements: I probably do not have the aptitude for them or just had not realized them well.

I feel like I could freely use water and it would be quite effective but, with wind, depending on the strength of it, it can also be used as a dryer. I shall name it drying magic.

"You... can't you create something more natural?"

“I-I can’t help it, okay? It just becomes like that.”

I properly got to understand that magic really depends on the imagination after some trial and error but, it does not activate with simple imagination, I really need to imagine it lucidly to manifest.

And thus, to make it easier to manifest magic, I tried imagining the things which were close to me but that just naturally ended up making the magic similar to something which had roots in normal lifestyle.

I would like to use the magic widely seen on games and such but, unfortunately, because of my poor imagination, the only thing which came out was similar to the drying magic.

The only element I have really high aptitude with is water and I could produce some magic-like magic with it so I decided to gradually practice and get better at that.

I would very much like to manifest a water dragon soon. I can’t help but feel it would become a hot bath dragon rather than water dragon, though...

Nice and warm.

“...By the way, what are you doing there?”

“Well, I thought I would wash my head.”

I exchanged a wooden bucket used for baths with DP and was using shampoo to wash my head with the water magic.

I can produce water directly from the tip of my finger so it actually feels pretty good.

The water and bubbles which fell were all going to Shii. He was jumping like ‘New snacks!’ and absorbed all of it.

It really helps but, are you really okay with it, Shii? Are you okay drinking shampoo? He seemed fine eating trash and he is also eating the shampoo like it’s really delicious. There is nothing really wrong with him so I guess I could let him be but...

Although I was a little worried, I finished washing my hand and wiped my head with a bath towel and dried it with the wind magic.

Ahh... it feels good.

I hadn't washed yesterday so it kinda bothered me.

"...Hey, you... can you do that for me too?"

"Wash your head? Alright. I learnt these magic from you after all. This is my gratitude for it. Here, put your head out."

"...I did not really teach you magic for this, though..." Lefy said while being a bit baffled but still nervously put out her head which I started to wash.

Chapter 10

No-good-dragon

“—And? Don’t you have something you want to say?”

I was sitting on the throne, with my cheeks resting on my hand. Shii was on top of my knee.

“Yo-you got it wrong. Th-this is because of unavoidable circumstances and-and I am not at fault here!”

And in front of us, sitting on her knees, desperately trying to resist was– the supreme dragon, Leficios.

“Oh? And how is it wrong? Tell me.”

“.....”

She became silent.

This dragon girl has been not been looking straight at me and has been turning away her face.

“...Haa-...”

As I let out a big sigh, Lefy’s shoulders shook. To hell with all her dignity.

“Hey, don’t just stay quiet and try saying something. I might let it go depending on the situation.”

Well, first of all, a situation like that does not exist.

‘Uhh... it’s that’

“Oh?”

“...I-It was just too good th-that, I ended up eating a-all of it...”

Yep, just as I had expected.

Yep, thank you, I knew.

“You... you have been living for a long time. At least learn to endure it... for just a day, you know...?”

“Bu-but... it-it was just too good...”

“Don’t give me that, you no-good-dragon!”

“Wha...?! Y-you called me a no-good-dragon?!”

“Even though you have lived so long, you can’t even be patient, just like a child—I am amazed you can call yourself the supreme dragon without being embarrassed with that!”

“Guuu... saying whatever you please...! —That’s right, that’s exactly right. I am the supreme dragon. I live as I please and bring about disasters as I wish! What is wrong about living the way one wants?!”

Uwah, this dragon — she just completely turned on me!

“Hmph, you should just give up. My existence in itself is considered a natural calamity in the human world! That which happened too was the wish of the heavens!”

“I won’t give you sweets anymore.”

“I am really sorry. Please forgive me.”

Changing her attitude again in a moment, she silently lowered her head.



If you were wondering how such a situation came to be, we would need to go back to this morning.

“Alright then, Lefy. I leave the dungeon watch to you till I come back. Shii too, wait

together with Lefy.”

“.....Got it.”

“If you get hungry, you can eat the food I left but don’t eat too much, okay?”

“.....Okay.”

While playing the game ‘Tummy Get’, a handheld game which was popular long ago, she gave an absent-minded reply.

Beside her, the slime, Shii, was jumping up and down as if to say he understood.

That game which the dragon girl was engrossed in was in a questionable section of the DP Catalogue and as it cost less than the other games because it was small (Even though I say it cost less, compared to the normal stuff it was still quite expensive) I tried it but, instead of me, Lefy ended up getting addicted to it.

It is probably because she has never seen anything like it.

As far as I heard from Lefy, the technology in this world had not advanced that far and it was her first time seeing something like it.

Well, if this world’s civilization had advanced so far as to make such handheld games, it would have honestly been a kill-joy.

Impressed, she said ‘I didn’t know demon lords could make such things... ’ but, Lefy-san, the only one who can make something like that is, most probably, me.

Incidentally, about the relation between Lefy and Shii, the two had been getting along just fine.

I suppose girls, even in different races, do like cute things– Lefy, too, was being affectionate to Shii, saying things like ‘Fufu... Shii, you shall become the world’s strongest slime!’.

Well, Shii is cute after all. So, I guess it is just natural.

Shii was a bit scared of Lefy at first but, after watching me talking with her normally, he probably felt that Lefy is not someone he needs to be cautious around and is now playful with her too.

At this point, I don’t really feel any threat from her anymore.

Even now, that appearance of seriously playing that game, rolling around on the floor, does not look anything like an ancient dragon who has lived over a thousand years. No matter how I look at her, she looks like a child.

Giving a bitter smile, seeing them play like that, I said 'Then, I am off' and left the throne room.

For what purpose did I go outside, you ask? Not to raise money, but to find a good way to raise DP.

Half of the DP income depends on the intruders but, that crucial intruder hasn't shown up in our dungeon yet. Just the doggy I instantly killed the other day.

As Lefy has designated this area as her territory, almost all kinds of wildlife do not come anywhere near and the strong monsters have also decreased. On top of that, in the world of man, this place has been said to be one of the unexplored regions, so I have yet to see a human or a demi-human.

And thus, as I am in such a territory, I thought of rather expanding my dungeon territory outside of this one.

If I just fill up an area on the map and designate it as the dungeon territory, I could receive DP from all the inhabitants of that area.

I have plenty fund for that because of Lefy, who was now lazing around in the dungeon.

Normally, it seems like DP would have been used to empower the dungeon—that is to, increase the layers or summon monsters or traps to kill intruders and such but, as there is an intruder preventing supreme dragon in our dungeon, I feel more pity for the ones who actually come invading.

Well, I do not quite like the idea of the cave always being directly connected to the throne room like it is now so, when I have saved up enough DP, I am thinking of making some dungeon like stuff.

It seems that with the dungeon functions, you could create a sky or a night sky view inside of the dungeon or you could make it bigger by using more DP, so I feel like making a castle inside when I have saved up enough.

Something sinister like the demon lord castle or demon castle, like the ones which

come up in games, would be nice.

—Outside the cave there would lie an ever expanding, endless world of perpetual night.

With a moon which was not supposed to be seen, illuminating an enormous black castle in the centre.

From the windows of that castle, light leaks out, lighting the darkness, giving the beholder an eerie, grand impression.

Oh man, that might actually be good. It tickles my male heart.

I have passed the days here quite vaguely till now but from now, I shall move on forward with that as my objective.

And so, to avoid any battle for today, I used two spells, *Spy* and *Enemy-Search*, with the map and sneakily advanced through the forest.

Yes, these are skills and I discovered two methods of acquiring them.

First, to do some action related to the required skill, for example, the way I acquired *Martial Arts*.

And the second being the *Skill Scroll*.

This has the appearance of a scroll and by reproducing the figure drawn in there in one's mind and flowing mana into the scroll like that, one can acquire that skill.

It is extremely easy. You cannot use a skill scroll twice but it is still a really special method of acquiring new skills.

These two were also listed among the questionable part of the DP Catalogue but, as I thought they would be essential to living in this world, I exchanged some DP for them. Setting *Spy* aside, I have no idea how I would have acquired the *Enemy-Search* skill.

By the way, my status at the moment looks like this.

Name: Yuki

Race: Arch Demon

Class: Demon Lord

Level: 16

HP: 2350/2350

MP: 6960/6960

Strength: 681

Resistance: 710

Agility: 585

Mana: 960

Dexterity: 1290

Luck: 70

Skill point: 0

Unique Skill: Mana Eye, Language Translation

Skill: Item Box, Analyze Lv5, Martial Arts Lv3, Source Magic Lv2, Spy Lv3, Enemy Search Lv3

Title: Demon Lord of a Parallel World

DP: 10220

My level had been increasing gradually—this was not because I had defeated more monsters but rather because I had been working out.

And the skills points I had, I used them all on analyze. With this, the amount of info of others I could analyze has increased.

I had just recently acquired *spy* and *enemy search* but, because I had been activating it most of the time, the levels have increased.

The spy skill had no effect on Lefy but when I tried searching Shii with it, he was just too adorable.

When I found him with it, he would keep jumping happily.

As the skills take MP to use, I can't really use them all the time but because I am a demon— a demon lord at that, I have abundant MP and can keep using the low level abilities for more than 2-3 hours at one go.

According to Lefy, even demons do not have that absurd amount of MP.

If I were to say, this is probably because of the demon lord's body.

“—Ah, that one feels a bit dangerous...”

As I was searching, I stumbled upon a huge monster which appeared to be a cross between a tiger and a rhinoceros. It had probably just ended its hunt, and was eating a living creature.

I felt like it would sense my presence if I got any closer than that. It is a pain to fight for no reason.

Making such a decision, I hurriedly left that area.

—Now that I have come quite a long way, I probably crossed Lefy's territory because I started spotting monsters and wildlife here and there.

If I include this whole area to dungeon territory, I might be able to get a huge amount of DP.

"Alright, dungeon expansion was a success.—Ah, I don't have any DP left."

I guess I will just devote myself to fill up the map now.



And like that, after having spent a whole day outside, when the sun was setting, I returned to the *Kitchen Room (2000DP)* which I had added yesterday, to fill my empty stomach and—

—It was all empty, the refrigerator.

For food, I had exchanged DP for a week's worth of meat as it was cheaper that way but it was all gone.

...The number of possibilities I could think of are very few.

".....Lefyyyyyyyyyyyyyy!!"

——-And that's how we came to this situation.

Seriously... eating so much.

I had always thought that she eats quite a lot during mealtimes but she was still not eating her fill?

Was it that she was holding back normally?

...No, don't get deceived. This time was just her overeating. I can't sympathize. It is true I have quite a lot of DP because of her but that should make things even since I have been providing food and a sleeping place for her.

"...Haa, so we don't have anything for dinner tonight..."

I am flat out broke on DP because of the expansion. If I had known something like this would have happened, I would have put the provisions in my item box rather than in the kitchen.

I will probably get some DP sometime tomorrow but... it looks like I won't be having any dinner tonight.

Even if I wanted to go out and get some vegetables, it was already quite late.

When I muttered that, Lefy probably felt bad and panickedly said,

"Wa-wait! I understand, it will be fine if you just get that point-something, right?!"

"...Well, yes..."

"Wa-wait just a bit! I will be back in 30 minutes!"

"Ah... oi!"

Saying just that, Lefy left the throne room before I could even say anything.



30 minutes later.

In front of the cave entrance, an absurd amount of monsters and animals were piled on top of each other.

"This is too much, you idiot!!"

"Fugeee—"

When I smacked her head like that, she let out a stupid voice.

“Kuuu... in these many centuries... you are probably the first to have slapped my head...”

She said while looking at me bitterly.

“Is that so? Isn’t that such an honour.”

“I-in the first place, why do I have to get slapped?! Isn’t it better to have lots of that point-thingy?! I brought all of these all the way here, you know?!”

“That is true but, you, there is a limit to everything, you know? Look, just look at this pond of blood. The ground is completely dyed red. And also, this huge amount of dead bodies– what will I do with these? I would be troubled disposing them... Ah–I just remembered, I can convert dead bodies to DP too.”

I had also disposed of the doggy that day like this too.

“If that’s so then why did you hit me?!”

“I got carried away.”

“Youuu!!” said the supreme dragon, with an astonished expression.

“My bad, my bad. Here, I will pat you. Pain, pain, go away~!”

“Wah, ehehe... wa-as if!!”

She swept away my hand.

Yep, I thought that too.

And so, I converted the huge amount of corpses to DP with the dungeon function.

The mountain of corpses kept melting in the blink of an eye and before long, the pool of blood also disappeared without leaving a trace behind.

“...Quite the spectacle, this.”

“Right? —Well, with this, I can also have dinner, so I guess we are even. And let me just say this, seeing how huge your original body is and how much you can eat, it’s not like

I can produce unlimited food, alright? So learn to respect bounds.”

“Guuu... understood. I just need to collect point myself if I want food, right?”

“Ah– but don’t go too far. Really, don’t.”

If she does this a few more times, all the living creatures surrounding us would really disappear. Really, don’t do that.

“Ye-yes. I will try to endure it as much as I can.”

“Please do. —Then, let’s head back. Along with my dinner, I guess I will let you have some sweets as well.”

“Cookie! I want cookie!”

After that conversation, we went back inside the dungeon.

Chapter 11

In the Forest

I ran.

“Haa... haa...”

I just kept on running.

With fear and grief in my heart as fuel, I just kept running.

Fervently moving my legs, which wouldn't listen to me, pushing my way through plants, I just kept on going forward.

I did not have a destination.

I just ran to escape.

I just ran to escape from the despair which kept drawing near from behind.

“Oi, this is bad! That brat ran off into the *Devil's Forest*!!”

“Wh-what will we do?! If the goods are gone, we will be the ones who get beaten!!”

“Even if you say that, we will die if we go in there!! I don't know why but there have been several reported cases of that ancient dragon being unusually active there!!”

“Tch...! That damned brat...!!”

Without even being able to listen to what they were saying, I just looked forward and ran deep into the forest.



“Fuu-!”

Guchaaaa!

“Haa!”

Bechaaaa!

“Soryaa!”

Nubuchoooo!

“Uwah, it got into my mouth, eww.”

Spitting it out, I swung the cheap sword I got for some DP to brush off the pieces of meat stuck on it.

In front of my eyes, there was a monster whose head went flying—leaving just a headless corpse.

It looks like my current body’s specs were much more tremendous than I had thought.

I can bring down most enemies with one blow. It kind of makes this ‘guchaa’ sound when parts of its meat go flying.

Rather, I am using a sword, so I kinda want to cut it off clean with one slash but for some reason it just bursts open making all the flowers in the surrounding bloom with red blood.

Well, the reason for that is probably because I am still not that skilled.

When I brought out this cheap sword, I tried to imitate the fencing I had done in school for a class but before I knew it, I had learned *Swordsmanship* skill. It is still only at level one so it does not quite mean anything in real battle, though.

Just to the extent to which it makes me think that I was able to move a little better because of it.

I am an amateur, after all. So naturally, I would have a lot of weak points.

When I tried practice-swinging with it, Lefy asked seriously from the bottom of her heart ‘You... is that some new kind of a game?’. I want to cry...

Also, my skill *Mana Eye*, which I did not get any opportunity to use, displayed its true value now.

With this, I can view the opponent’s mana flow.

This, being such an exceedingly convenient skill, allows me to view from where the mana is flowing in the opponent's body, where it will get concentrated and how strong it will be.

Thanks to these eyes, I can even deal with enemies who come using earth spear from the ground with killing intent at first sight.

I do have such convenient eyes so maybe I should stop trying to be the combatant type and aim for the mage type demon lord.

A dirty mage who uses magic from long range and when the opponent also tries using long range magic, he uses his unique skill to dodge them.

Also, the feeling of meat twisting around the blade with every slash does feel kinda unpleasant. The enemy just pops, so my eyes also get dirty. Most importantly, it is gross.

Yep, I shall still continue sword practice but at the same time, I should also do magic training.

Speaking of magic training, I have now become completely unable to use fire type magic.

Most probably because the thought that 'fire magic is dangerous' has dyed too deeply in my head.

When I tried using it, it ranked down from lighter to a matchstick level fire.

Well, it is still fine because it looks like my aptitude with water and earth is much higher and I am slowly being able to do more with those. I can properly control the water temperature as well now.

I still can't use magic strong enough to beat enemies yet but I do plan on working on these two elements to lay their foundation properly.

"...Alright, I am done filling the map around these parts too."

Confirming that, I continued using the menu.

Repeating the same things I did the previous day, I went on expanding the dungeon territory today as well. The fights I had carried out were alongside that.

I decided that it is about time I properly come to understand the specs of my own body.

The expansion of the dungeon territory is going pretty smoothly for now. From that place at the middle of the mountain, I gradually kept increasing the territory, making my way down. At the moment, the total amount of DP is three times of when the dungeon just had Lefy.

Well, the DP which gets saved are also used to expand again so it is pretty much zero all the time but with this, I am quite excited to see the end result.

“...Ah?”

Then, while I was just going on expanding territory—something weird appeared at the corner of my sight.

—At first, I did not know what it was.

Between the plants, something was lying on the ground without moving an inch.

It had blood stains on it and at first look, it looked a corpse of something but... That area was already inside the dungeon territory so it should show the enemy reaction on the map and—there was a reaction.

Which means it is still alive.

I did not know what it was so I went closer cautiously and—then, I finally found out what it really was.

It was a little girl, all bloody and lying face down on the ground.

“——.”

As soon as I knew what it was, I hurriedly went close and confirmed her condition.

She was unconscious.

She was probably attacked by a monster around here, guessing from a deep claw-like wound on her back.

She was still alive but... frankly speaking, she was close to death. If I was just a few minutes late in finding her, she might have not been alive.

Seeing how big her wound was, I immediately opened up the item box and brought out a small vial from the tear in space.

Umm... If I am not wrong, it should still have effect even if I sprinkle it over...

I carefully dropped the liquid from that vial on the girl's wound opening.

"Nn..." she leaked a small groan.

The moment the liquid touched her wound, it started joining and regenerating at such a surprising rate that it was kind of creepy to watch and — before long, by the time I had poured about half of the liquid, as if her wound did not exist in the first place, the kid's clean back was well again.

That little girl which I had mistaken for a corpse at first because of her shallow breathing, was now breathing peacefully. Confirming that, I let out a big sigh of relief.

Whew... it worked out...

Wiping off cold sweat, I calmed down.

The liquid I just used now was the *High Potion*.

The effects are just as I had seen, even if one's arm was cut off, if you just pour some of these on the wound, it would grow back like Picco*o-san.

It is quite creepy to be honest. I feel like one could make a real zombie soldier with it.

Lefy had said, 'You seem to be working outside quite a lot now, so it would be better if you had one of these with you. Sure, your skills are pretty high but there are many enemies you can't match, after all.' to which I agreed and got one and put it in the item box even though it was quite expensive.

I had never thought I would be using it like this but... I guess Lefy can say something useful once in awhile. I shall give her some choco when I get back.

—Even still, this girl was in such a bad state.

I thought after looking at her once more.

She was wearing an old rag and her pretty blonde hair was all ruffled up.

I was too concentrated with the wound on her back but she seemed to have multiple wounds on her skin as well. These are clearly not recent wounds...

It was a terrible spectacle from which I could grasp with just a glance what kind of condition she was in.

“...At any rate, I can’t just leave her be like this...”

Chapter 12

The situation

“Yuki... You... I didn’t know you were *that* kind of a person...”

“I really properly understand why you are misunderstanding but I don’t have the time to deal with you now.”

I put the girl on a futon, who I brought with me since she was still not conscious.

The throne now had long desks and chairs at the corners and various stuff left unorganized and had completely become a living room at this point. Where did all the magnificence go?

Well, I guess it would kinda turn out like this since we are actually living here.

“Mm...? That girl, she is a vampire, eh?”

“So it seems.”

This is what her status looked like when I analyzed it.

Name: Iluna

Race: Vampire

Class: None

Level: 3

HP: 17/25

MP: 120/120

Strength: 40

Resistance: 50

Agility: 46

Mana: 72

Dexterity: 68

Luck: 412

Unique Skill: Blood suck

Skill: Cooking lv2, sewing lv1

Her name is Iluna.

Her status looks pretty low but I guess this is about right for a child.

Her skills seem very family-oriented. From her looks, she is probably 7 or 8 years old.

Probably helped her parents or something.

Such a nice kid.

“Well, this is another rare thing you brought along with you.”

“Rare?”

Is she talking about her race?

I had completely thought it would be pretty normal for vampires to be here but I guess that's not the case here.

“Hmm. The vampires and succubus are usually good-looking so these past few decades, the humans over-hunted them to turn them into slaves, driving them to the verge of extinction. The children in the forest are pretty good-looking too but they have a nonaggression contract with the humans for what it matters. In contrast, the demons are totally hostile against the humans so the humans don't hold back either. That girl too, probably was hunted as a slave and ran away.”

...The children of forest... The elves, as far as I know from the dungeon's wiki.

“.....”

It isn't something I do not understand.

Even in the previous world, slaves were pretty common until recently.

In this world where the war is never ending, I guess it is not something unusual.

But—even if that's the case, I am not okay with it.

...Humans, eh.

I am a former human and I am also living like a human probably now too but—I probably can't get along with them.

While thinking that, I poured the remaining high potion on her wounds and then—I heard a cute little voice.

“Nn...”

“Oh, are you awake? Does it hurt anywhere?”

At first, she looked at me for a while but when she finally noticed my presence, she let out a shriek and went backwards.

“Ah, wa-wait, it's not like I am going to eat you or something, no need to be scared.”

Well, even if I say that, if one were to see someone they don't know right after they wake, obviously they would be cautious.

On top of that, she is just a kid. She must be pretty scared.

...What shall I do?

And at the moment, while I was thinking about what I could do—

My pet, Shii, who was dozing off on top of his exclusive cushion, finally woke up, got on my shoulder and stared at Iluna like it was saying ‘who~?’

Well, Shii doesn't actually have eyes so I guess it would be better to say I feel like he was staring at Iluna.

“Waa...”

Being surprised by Shii, it looked like Iluna was curious and kept looking successively at Shii and me.

“...You wanna try touching him?”

Saying that, when I held Shii towards Iluna, she timidly touched him with a finger.

As if Shii had judged Iluna to be his play partner, he jumped towards her and was being

playful.

“Fuee?... Fufu...ahaha, it tickles.”

Iluna also looked like she was not afraid anymore and was stroking Shii.

I guess I was saved by Shii here...

“I am Yuki. And he is Shii. And, that over there is Leficios. What is your name?”

“You... what do you mean ‘that’?”

I actually knew her name but she might have gotten afraid if I called her by her name suddenly. So I reckoned I should start the conversation from here.

“Iluna!”

Looks like she was cheered up because of Shii, as she introduced herself happily. How cute.

“I see, Iluna... Ah, can you tell me why you were in that forest?”

“Ummm, I was being chased... by scary humans...”

“...I see.”

It was as Lefy had predicted.

“Well then, Iluna. Your hometown... do you know where you live?”

When I asked her about her home, she shook her head and said,

“...My home is no longer there... Father and mother... the next door uncle and aunty... Everyone died...” she started to cry.

“Ah, wait, wait, it’s okay, don’t cry, it’s okay. It’s all okay now.”

Although I didn’t know what was okay myself, I panickedly kept trying to console the girl who had suddenly started crying.

“Kukuku, you don’t even fear the supreme dragon but you get overwhelmed by a girl’s tears, eh?”

“Shut up.”

Giving Lefy, who was having quite fun behind, a sharp look, I turned to face the girl again.

And then, after letting out a small sigh, I put my hand on her head and said,

“...Don’t worry. The scary humans won’t come chasing you here. If you don’t have anywhere to go, you can stay here as long as you like.”

I mean, a being far scarier than scary humans is right behind me, right?
So this dungeon is probably the most safe place around.

“It is okay...?”

Wearing a somewhat anxious expression, she asked looking up at me.

“Yes, of course it is. If it is such a good girl like you, we will warmly welcome you.”

I was the one who brought her all the way here.

Then it is only natural for me to look after her till the end.

Besides, it doesn’t make that much of a difference if I need to provide for one more person at this point.

Or rather, it wouldn’t be human of me to just leave her like this. Oh, I guess I am not human, though.

“...But... the humans said we are not allowed to live... And that that’s why father and mother and everyone died...”

“...Did they say it like that?”

She nodded.

For a moment there, something dark was swelling up inside my heart... but as I was in front of Iluna, shutting that away deep within, instead, I smiled at her.

“Stupid, there is no way that is true, right? I am sure, everyone was just being a little mean because Iluna is just too cute.”

“...Really?”

“Yep, really. After all, I don’t even think a tiny, tiny bit that it would be better if Iluna died. And so, Iluna, you too must not think that you should die, okay?”

“...Yes, I got it, onii-chan!”

Her face lit up and she happily nodded. Yep, children should always be lively. Onii-chan is glad you cheered up.

Then, maybe because she had cheered up, I could hear a gururu noise from her stomach.

“Now then, let’s have a meal first. Iluna, do you have any food you like? I can probably prepare it for you.”

“Ummm, that is...”

She looked up at me hesitantly and said,

“...I-I want onii-chan’s blood...”

—Eh, what is this child? Yandere?

Or so I had ended up thinking for a moment there but soon remembered that she was a vampire.

“A-ahh, okay. That’s fine but is my blood alright?”

“Yes!”

“O-oh, alright then.”

Hmm? I kinda feel like I am being told something rather abnormal but I feel a little happy. This is bad.

“Are you okay with that?”

Said Lefy suddenly, who was looking over the developments.

“What? Is there something wrong?”

Perhaps, it is that I will become a vampire too like it is told in those stories?

Well, I am not really human anymore so it does not really matter what I become at this point.

“No, nothing is wrong but... Well, do as you please.”

The way she said that kinda makes me curious but I couldn't possibly say no to Iluna who was now looking at me full of expectation.

She came rising up my body and bit my neck.

I didn't really feel any pain... In fact, it kinda tickled.

It felt like when I went to a doctor and they took my blood with a syringe.

But, the problem is——

Her sticking to me like this, sucking my blood—kinda feels weird.

In short, I feel like I am doing something I should not.



.....This is bad. I kinda really feel like I am doing something bad.

Calm down, me. Calm down. It's okay, I am a person with a strong will. A person with firm will. It's fine, I am a normal guy, who likes older woman so I am fine. It's okay.

Seeing me telling that to myself, Lefy muttered,

"...Yuki, so you really are that kinda—"

"You are wrong, alright!? Just know that you are wrong!"

◇ ◇ ◇

"Ah... Lefy, can't you give her a bath?"

Being somewhat mentally exhausted, I asked Lefy.

Maybe because she is still young, she can't probably suck blood, as she dropped some on her clothes.

She also probably worked up a sweat running around the forest so a bath would be good.

By the way, the bath was added beside the kitchen. A modular bath with a toilet one would find in an apartment.

The kitchen and bath are both made by the dungeon so there is an option to upgrade them as well. For example, making the bath insanely huge like large public baths. It is something I want to add when I have enough DP.

"Hou? Yuki, you are telling me to work for free?"

Lefy said, giving a meaningful smile.

Th-this dragon... even at times like these..."

"...2 pouches of cookies."

"Are you underestimating me? 3 pouches of cookies."

“You’re forgetting one thing. Your sweets depend on whether I make them or not. Isn’t it better for you to not be greedy?”

Well, I have quite a lot of DP now it is fine giving her 3 pouches of cookies but I don’t want to spoil her.

“Guu, I can’t really be strong against you... Gah, I guess I have no choice.”

Expressing her displeasure wholly on her face, she reluctantly accepted.

“...In exchange, I shall also give you some cake after you get out.”

“A new sweet?! Understood!! Come, little girl, I shall show you how to use the bathroom!! This bath is exceptional, you know!”

“Yep, got it, Lefy-chan!”

“Pfft”

“Cha-chan...? Little girl! You need to pay your respect to elders! Don’t call me so frivolously!”

“Nn... Lefy-onee-chan!”

“...Well, I guess it is fine.”

Ah, that is okay?

Chapter 13

Let's do gacha

Our new resident, Iluna, was a far prettier girl than I had thought.

With dazzling, blonde hair and big, light-green eyes, her face proportions are just right — making her look like a kid idol. With just the right height, it makes me want to stroke her head.

Lefy did say vampires and succubus' have charming appearances but isn't she a head above the rest?

Iluna said they were all killed but seeing how she was left alive like this, maybe the kidnappers also thought the same thing as me.

The first time I saw her, I thought she was a lost child. But now when I see her with her getup clean and arranged, I can tell that in a few years she will definitely grow up to be a pretty girl whom men would die for.

Lefy also looks quite pretty in her human form so when they line up like this, people who don't know them would probably think they are sisters.

Although they have contrasting hair colour and features...

"Onii-chan, what is this?"

After having spent a night here, as if none of the things that happened yesterday were true, she had completely healed and was now curiously looking around the dungeon asking questions.

"Hmm? ah, there's a small, toy-like sword there, right? Try to pierce it in the barrel hole"

Iluna did as I told her, piercing into the various holes of the barrel with the toy sword and—.

"Waahyya – Onii-chan, something came out!"

After grabbing that which was flying towards her, she looked towards me with a happy expression.

As you can imagine, she was playing with the “pop-up pirate”.

Living in the dungeon is convenient and nice but you would end up having a lot of free time.

I tried getting out something light and fun which even Lefy could play to kill time.

Well, that Lefy stopped playing with it right after it came flying towards her face, though.

I was sitting on the throne cross-legged, which had now become quite comfortable, and was watching over Iluna pleasantly, while confirming the menu items as a daily task.

The DP income seems to be quite good.

I do plan on keeping the expanding work up, but at this rate, it doesn't seem like I would be lacking DP unless I needed something really expensive.

I succeeded in stabilizing it pretty quickly.

...Then, I could try this a bit, right?

I slid my finger to the “Gacha” button.

I had not used it before since I needed to use DP for other purposes but now I have some space to breathe.

I actually wanted to try doing this. I mean, it looks so interesting and what not.

...Yep, verifying things is important, after all.

I guess I will examine the ‘gacha’ function which I have not used before.

And so I tapped on the gacha button and opened up the page.

The items were simple, only being four options of 100, 1000, 10000 and a 100000. The probability of getting a rare item would probably increase if I spend more DP. I would like to see what comes out of it but it doesn't seem to be that nice of a system.

Since the top two are kinda a bit too much for the moment... Alright, I will go with the 1000 one then.

And then, when the DP was consumed, just like when Shii appeared, light particles formed and concentrated at a single point —

“...this, is this a pistol...?”

What appeared before me was a pistol that had the similar shape to a type called Derringer but about twice as big and had an additional cylinder.

No, when it's like this, I think it would be better to call it a different type of revolver. It had an engraving on the surface and a pattern going round the gun's body to the grip, giving off a nice feel.

Magic revolver: Fires magic instead of bullets. The power can be varied with the amount of magic supplied. Number of bullets: 7.

“Oh, ohhh...”

Checking out the details with the analyze skill, I instinctively ended up letting out a voice of amazement.

This is pretty damn cool.

If this was an FPS game, I would want to get it even if it meant spending a lot of money. That's how cool it looks.

...I really wanna try shooting with it but I will hold that off for now. I will probably have more to test, after all.

Even still, my luck seems to be pretty good.

This magic revolver really does seem like a jackpot so it might probably be a rare item.

Let's keep going at it like this.

—Now that I look back on it, it probably would have been better if I had stopped there.

Tanashi, sardine, soap, wooden cup, cord, salt, soap, wooden spoon, hemp string, plush toy, tapper, lid , fancy doll, plastic bag, cord, pot lid, pan lid, key holder, pencil,

lid of a pot-.

...After that, I got ahead of myself and spun the wheel many times, making a mountain of garbage in front of me.

Everything which came out were stuff I could get within a 100 DP.

Thinking I would surely get something good the next time, I kept on spinning it — ultimately resulting in me burning out.

...I had completely forgotten.

My luck value is even lower than that of a slime, the weakest monster among all monsters...

The first hit was also probably a trap to make me use a lot of DP.

What a terrible gacha, I was completely played.

Darn it, darn it... Why did I get so many pot lids? I don't need just lids *that* much! If you are gonna give me something, at least make it something I can use.

When I was lethargically sitting back on the throne, looking at the pile of garbage in front of me, Iluna came asking,

“Onii-chan, what are you looking at?”

“...Ah, this... This is a menu—eh?”

There when I tried to reflexively answer Iluna's question, my brain which had stopped working finally started.

“...Iluna, this thing I am looking at... Can you see it too?”

“That transparent plate? I can see it!”

...What does this mean?

Lefy could not see it so I had completely thought it was something only I can see but...

“Onii-chan, I also want to try doing that thingie!”

“Hmm? Ah, ahh, alright. But only once.”

I don’t have much DP left because of all that spinning either.

“Yayy! Thank you, onii-chan!”

Iluna came running towards me and sat on my lap.

“Which one should I press?”

“There, this one.”

As I said that pointing towards the gacha button, Iluna replied ‘Got it!’ and pressed it

And then—

“Ohh, ohhhhh-?!”

“Wahh, beautiful”

Tons of particles of light far greater than during my time came gathering at one point.

Wha-what’s going on?!

It seemed like the light was not creating shapes but—a vague outline of something with four limbs and a tail was forming.

And eventually, the light particles stopped contracting, leaving a—

—a big body.

The hair-like thing covering its body was dazzling like snow.

The nails at the tip of all four limbs looked unbelievably sharp—enough to even break a boulder.

From its eyes staring right this way, one could feel sagacity—giving off an elegant vibe as a whole.

It was a wolf—about one head taller than me.

“.....”

To that result, I was entirely dumbfounded.

Name: None

Race: Fenrir

Class: Wolf King

Level: 1

HP: 1810/1810

MP: 5452/5452

Strength: 607

Durability: 685

Dexterity: 784

Magical power: 872

Dextery: 890

Luck: 140

Unique skill: God speed, chain of perpetuation, physical transformation

Skills: Nail techniques lvl 2, ice magic lvl 4, lightning magic lvl 4, danger sense lvl 4

Title: The Demon Lord's underling

...Umm, the race is displaying Fenrir, though...

Isn't Fenrir that... That wolf which comes up in legends? So it isn't a legend here, eh...
It actually exists...

Now that I look at it, isn't it's stats a bit too high? I am just a bit higher...
I'm already losing in agility. It also has all these weird skills... It just got born but it's
title is 'Wolf King', too...

“Waahh, such a big wolf!”

Letting out shouts of joy, Iluna got off my lap and went towards the wolf.

“Ah, hey, Iluna!”

While feeling kinda scared within, I panickedly went after Iluna.

But it seemed like the Fenrir properly recognized us as it's master and coiled up on its feet and drooped its head down.

"There, there!"

"Really, Iluna... it might have been dangerous, you know?"

"It's fine! After all, I don't sense the slightest evil from him!"

Evil, eh... is it possible that vampires have a skill like that which helps it identify the other party?

And at that time, Shii who wasn't really doing anything, came and stood before the newcomer Fenrir probably thinking something like 'I am the senpai so I must teach him stuff!' and started something like preaching.

And Fenrir too, was not getting offended by being told by an overwhelmingly lower class monster and was silently listening to what Shii was saying.

"...You... you called upon something quite outrageous..."

Lefy, who was lying low till now, was probably woken up by the noise and came looking at Fenrir with a dumbfounded expression.

"As I thought, that, it's pretty strong?"

"Pretty strong? It's not just that. It's still a child but when it grows up, it will be of the same level as me. I did fight with one a long time ago and it was quite bothersome. I don't want to face it again."

To make even Lefy say that much...

Also, to think it's still a child with that size... it might be quite troublesome when it grows... mainly because of the room size.

"...Even so, with that kinda wolf in front of them, Shii and the little girl are pretty chill. They might be quite the big-shot themselves."



I think so too.

Chapter 14

Verification

“Coming to think of it... Hey, Lefy, come see this.” I called her.

While I was set on the throne, Iluna played around with Shii¹ as she bounced around near me, the Fenrir was standing still while watching over them, and Lefy came close to see what this was about.

“Uhn? Is this about the status screen? I can’t see it.” She stated.

“Actually, I don’t need you to see it.”

I gave her a quick explanation about the menu.

“I see, so it’s the dungeon’s powers that allow you to create the wonderful things?”

“Indeed. Also, Iluna seems to be able to see this.”

“Uhm... I can guess what you want to ask, but I don’t know why she can see it. I can tell you the difference between me and her though.”

“What’s the difference?”

“You’re married with that girl.”

“...Eh?”

Leaking out a stupid sound, I turned towards Lefy before she continued.

“Blood is a very important part of the body, to take someone’s blood would be equivalent to having sex for a vampire. A few of them that have low moral values take it from anyone, but for most, it’s only done with someone they can consider a spouse.”

...Eh? What the heck?

“Bu-but blood is an important source of nutrition for vampires isn’t it? If they marry everyone they suck it from, just how are they leading their lives!?”

“What they need is blood, what had it doesn’t matter. Single vampires usually drink it from wild animals.

Well, the girl is still too young, so she probably wasn’t taught that far, but the act of taking blood is rooted in their instincts. Though I have no doubt you wanted that anyway, so things took a good turn, didn’t they?”

I was appalled by the information Lefy provided me with.

“Wh-why didn’t you tell me!?”

“Hm? You are a pedophile, so this should be something you have long wished for, I could see from your excitement when looking at my naked body.”

“I-I’m not aroused by children!!”

Sh-she made such a misunderstanding...!

At that moment, I suddenly became aware of something, so I hurriedly opened the menu of DP income.

If I want to, I can see all the details regarding the DP I earn, but... As I thought, Iluna is no longer providing me any DP, while Lefy still gives the amount an invader monster does.

Even goblin children that I once saw while I was outside give an income of 3 DP.

In other words, Iluna is no longer considered an intruder, but a resident of the dungeon.

“Ugh... Even though things were going so well...” I depressively commented.

“Why are you making this kind of statement!? You dare stay silent after I went through such efforts for your sake!?”

“I didn’t ask for your help on this kind of thing! You are not going to receive any sweets

for three days from now!”

“What!? This is tyranny!! I refuse to accept it!!”

Ignoring Lefy’s noisy complaints, I heaved a huge sigh.

Iluna did not ask for blood since last night, apparently she only needs to drink it once per week, normal food suffices on the rest of the time.

Then for now... It’s time to procrastinate.

I’m glad Iluna likes me, but she is still a child, so these feelings are probably transient. Once she grows a bit more she’ll probably start saying ‘I hate you big bro!’¹, though the thought of hearing that makes me a bit sad.

...We-Well, let’s avoid the issue until she becomes an adult. “Eh? Vampire customs? I don’t know a thing about those.” I’ll pretend like that.

...If she has feelings for me after she becomes an adult, then I’ll properly think about it.



After deciding how to handle Iluna’s case, I got my mind back on track and went out of the cave with my magic revolver in hand, to verify the performance of the new item, the new toy, at once.

Nature magnificently spread itself in front of my eyes.

This view always makes my heart beat wildly, though the thing I’m excited about this time, is what’s within my hand.

I’ve never shot a gun before coming to this world... Though I’m not sure if this can count as a gun... Let’s not get caught on the names.²

I let the mana flow through my body and made it concentrate on the magical revolver.

Since it’s the first test, I carefully checked the status screen to let only 10 MP flow into the gun.

Then I aimed at a rock a bit ahead positioned myself, just like people do on movies, and shot.

With a light recoil, the gun made a sound as if a strong wind was trying to squeeze through a tight place.

Immediately after, I approached the rock and traced my finger through it to see the damage, the surface was lightly scraped with only 10 MP.

...The firepower is definitely going to increase if I put more mana into it, right?

Checking my status again, I prepared the next bullet by pouring my MP into the gun.

The results were the following:

10: Lightly scraped the rock.

100: Made a hole on the rock.

500: The hole goes all the way through the rock.

1000: A large cannonball was shot and made a huge blow on the rock.

5000: A laser beam was shot from the tip of the magical revolver, the rock was completely vaporized and the next 30 meters of the mountain were completely flattened.

“...”

I became completely silent when faced with this result... This gun is more impressive than I thought.

I was already in high spirits for the chance of shooting a gun, but this just made me feel even better.

Though this power... I think I won't need 5000 MP... No, even 1000 is too much.

And even if the barrel was vibrating violently with 5000, I think that is not the limit of what this gun can do.

I actually wanted to go all out to see what would happen then, but I think it's better to stop.

It seems to be possible to load multiple bullets at once if you stop the flow of mana and then start putting it again, so it's possible to make the first bullet with 100 MP and the next with 1000 and so on forth.

This is quite useful, as you can put 10 MP on the first bullet and make your enemy think it's no big deal, and then they'll have a big surprise when the second shot has 1000 mana on it.

Though I could just put 5000 MP, or even just 3000, on the gun and it should be enough to finish most enemies.

Apparently no mana leaks from the magical revolver, even while checking with my mana eye, I saw nothing coming out of it.

Since it's like that, I think it should be okay to leave some bullets loaded in it... However, if something happens that forces the leakage... It's better to not leave any bullet loaded at all.

While I was just thinking of putting it on the item box, while wondering about the terrifying consequences that might come from its discharge, a large shadow came from the cave's direction.

"...Did you finally open up to Iluna and the others? Thanks for the hard work¹."

What came was the Fenrir, the second monster of the dungeon.

The whole time I was inside, he seemed to remain right behind my throne, and even after I left too. He seems a bit tired now though, which is no surprise considering the ruckus Lefy was making because of her ban on sweets.

Sitting down, the Fenrir lowered his head with a murmur which seemed to mean "please excuse me". He seems to have gone through a lot.

While I don't know what he actually feels, I can have some vague notion of it, seems like I can understand a bit of what goes through the mind of the dungeon monsters.

Similarly, both Shii and this fellow seemed to have a conversation some time back, I'm pretty sure it works on a similar way.

Incidentally, this wolf is a male and was named “Mofir”¹ by Iluna.

It comes from Mofumofu², and Fenrir, I confirmed that it was his proper name by checking his status.

Honestly, I felt sad for him, I was the one that told Iluna his race was Fenrir, but it might have been a bad idea... No, that’s not the problem.

I decided that I would just call him “Fir”.

“Right, you had some interesting skills, didn’t you? Could you show them to me?”

Fir had seven skills:

Unique skills: Godspeed, Everchanging Chains, Body Alteration.

Skills: Claw Arts³ Lv 2, Ice Magic lv 4, Thunder Magic Lv 4, Crisis Detection⁴ Lv 4.

I was curious about his unique ones, and when I told him about it, he nodded and activated them one by one.

Godspeed seems to be a skill that makes him so fast that I could no longer see his body. The Everchanging Chains are summoned from Mofir’s surroundings and can be freely controlled by him, how thick and robust they are is dependent on the amount of magical power used.

Body Alteration seems to simply make him bigger or smaller, making it possible for Fir to remain at a normal wolf’s size, I’m happy with it because he could end up taking the whole throne room otherwise.

“A-amazing!”

All those skills are way too cool, especially the Everchanging Chains, they have so much versatility.

They can be turned into a shield or even into a scaffold, and there should be no problem in restraining opponents with it either, seems like a really strong skill.

I want it too... But considering it’s a unique skill, I don’t think it’s possible, or at least not with a reasonable amount of DP.

Fir’s expression didn’t change much with the praises, but his tail started happily moving behind him.

“...”

As I watched it, a certain desire rose in me.

Unable to resist it, I opened the menu and bought an item at the DP catalogue, which I immediately threw forward.

“Fir, fetch!”

“—-!”

What I threw, was a Frisbee.

Fir seemed to feel conflicting emotions, but his instincts won and he ran, catching it midair, and then returned the Frisbee to me.

“Alright, now this!”

I threw the Frisbee with full strength this time, but Fir caught it and ran back to me.

“Wo-woah! Wait, stop it, gah!”

As he came back, Fir jumped and threw me on the ground with his full strength.

“Good boy, you did it.”

I grinned, stretched my arms embracing his whole body and caressed him with all my might as payback.



“Haa, haa... Playing with a Fenrir is a big deal...”

After playing for a while, I laid down on the ground while out of breath, he is too energetic and hard to keep up with.

I’m more of a cat person than a dog one, but the later are also cute when you play with them like this... He is not a dog though.

As for Fir, who was laying next to me, he recovered pretty quickly and immediately got depressed. It seems like Fir disgusts the behavior he showed due to not resisting his instincts. I think Fir's pride was really hurt, though I think it's not a problem for as long as he is having fun.

In any case, Iluna really got an amazing companion.

His skills are amazing, and when I checked the list of monsters that can come in the gatcha, he was the one at the top for that tier of DP.

There are still some above if you look at the higher tiers, but if he continues to grow he might as well become one of the strongest beings in this world, just like the Fenrir Lefy fought in the past.

"Fir, do you understand how the dungeon collects magical power?"

While still laying down, I turned my head towards him and asked this question, which he replied by shaking his body affirmatively.

"From this point above, it is all Lefy's domain, but the area that spreads below this, is part of the dungeon, my domain. I'm steadily spreading it, and I want you to hunt monsters on the surroundings."

If you put a pet to fight, it will definitely die. Fir however, started stronger than me, so he will be fine. It's not a good idea to keep him idle, so he will earn DP for me.

I'm going to work you hard, so please do your best and become strong, then I'll feel at ease.

"This is a really nice place, so you can enjoy life here, I can even help you hunting too. And I already think of you as my child, so make sure to come back, alright? Iluna will feel horrible otherwise."

Your home is here. Fir seemed to understand what I meant and bowed his head deeply to me.

Chapter 15

Wings, Please Lead Me To The Sky (1)

At a certain day...

“...O-oooh whoa!?”

I found it. I finally found it.

Iluna looked at me curiously as I raised from the throne with a sudden shout.

She was sitting on my knee, so she got out of the throne when I stood up. Shii on the other hand was on Iluna's lap, so she fell on the ground, which made the slime turn towards me grumpily.

I did not pay any attention to it though, because this is what I have been looking for it the whole time... To think my expectations were answered.

“...Fufufu, hahaha, hahahahahaha! I'm going to the sky, this is wonderful!”

While laughing loudly, I walked away from the throne.



I was touched, I finally found it.

Ever since Fir showed me the 'Everchanging Chains' I started looking on the catalogue for other similar things, and while I looked through the skills my eyes stopped at a certain one.

And that was 'Flight'.

Although there were plenty of interesting skills on the list, in the catalogue of normal skills there was nothing that allowed you to simply fly. It was a bit discouraging to compare myself to Lefy, who could fly with her own body's skill.

However, within the list unique skills I found it, 'flight'.

I immediately exchanged my DP for it on the moment my eyes gazed upon the skill, it costs more than ten times a normal skill, but it doesn't matter. Two thirds of my DP disappeared with it, but I don't care for such a thing.

Because of romance. What is needed to live in this world is romance.

A certain pirate king¹ also sailed the seas solely for the sake of romance, it's all that matters in life.

Even if it costed such absurd amount of DP, I did not hesitate.

When I told Lefy she said, "Don't go wasting money while spouting such nonsense!" But since she has no power over how I spend the DP, there is no problem.

I was feeling excited, I still didn't know if my wings were dragon's or bat's, but rather than worrying about that, I made sure to stay a bit far from everyone and then let those Jet black wings that seemed sucked all sunlight appear from my back.

In my past life I used similar wings as cosplay, but now it's different, those are real, they will become a bridge that allows me to walk through the sky, heading wherever I want.

Today, I will fly through the air with majestic freedom!!

"Let's go! To the sky!"

With a loud and joyful shout, I flapped my wings vigorously.

...

...

.....

.....Hm?

It cannot be.

My wings don't move.

...No, they do move a bit, but they are not throwing me to the air.

“...Onwards! To the sky!”

I put all my heart to it, but the sky was still far away.

W-Why!?

The skill is activating...

I can't explain it properly, but when a skill is activated, you can feel it is working even if you keep your eyes closed.

And 'Flight' is activating properly, but even then, I cannot fly.

“Why! Why can't I fly!?”

I tried over and over again, but no matter how many times I flapped my wings, my body refused to rise into the air.

Could it be that I'm simply unable to fly?

As in, my wings are simple decorations, so no matter if I have a skill or not, it's beyond me to reach the skies...?

My mood instantly went from the top of a mountain to the bottom of a cliff.

Spreading far above is a cruel and clear sky that stretches everywhere, am I truly unable to reach it? The thought filled me with despair.

As reality struck me, I fell down on my knees with both hands on the ground.¹

No, I need to calm down, it's too early to give up. My passion to reach the skies is not this small, I'm not giving in.

Besides, if I think carefully about it, this skill currently has no level even though I already purchased it. Perhaps just like the Martial Arts skill, I need to do something first to properly obtain it.

Then I should ask someone that has a good understanding of flight.



“And this is why you’re crying and begging me now?”

“Yes, I wish to borrow the power of a great dragon.”

I have prostrated myself in front of Lefy.

“It is disgusting to see you take this kind of attitude now of all times... I haven’t forgotten, you know? The unjust ban of sweets for three days that I was submitted to. You made me taste despair, and now think that simply prostrating yourself like an insect is enough to make up to it?”

“Should I lick the sole of your foot then?”

“Do you really think this would be enough...?” Lefy looked at me with a scowl.

Just seeing the sky isn’t enough, I want to fly in it. In my previous life humans longed for the sky since ancient times, and now on this world, I have the chance to experience the concretization of this wish.

I won’t miss this opportunity.

“Let us not do that, you can do much better, can’t you?” Lefy made a circle with her index finger and thumb. This obviously doesn’t represent money, but a donut.

What? Will it be okay with just this?

I bought 3 different donuts from the DP catalogue, within a white paper box to give a luxurious appearance.

“W-what is this? Such a sweet scent...!”

Lefy carefully opens the box as if it had a treasure inside.

“W-what!? Thi-this is... Three servings!?! And each looks so delicious!” Lefy looked at me absolutely astonished.

That's the cheapest donut available, I thought that the price for her help would be much higher.

But thinking carefully about it, Lefy looks at everything with this world's standards, where sweets must be extremely rare. People already loved sweets in my previous life, so their value here must be astronomical.

Considering her reaction, it seems those donuts more than paid my debt... Though they wouldn't cost more than 600 yen on Japan. It makes me feel a bit guilty, as if I was scamming her.

"...I will also give you this."

"W-what!? I-is this the legendary sweet you have only brought once before, 'Castella'?"

Castella is considered a legend for her? Though I guess I did get it only once, but that was just because it was somewhat expensive and I knew she'd eat it all in one go, was Lefy craving it that much?

"...To think that you could make a banquet like this... Your offering has been accepted! This great dragon shall make you the Archdemon of the skies! A demon that can fly almost as well as the supreme dragon!"

"The Archdemon of the skies..."

For Lefy, the title of supreme seems unnegotiable, but this is more than enough.

"Ah! Sis! That's unfair!"

At that moment, Iluna, who was just watching the occurrence, raised a voice of protest.

"I'm sorry Iluna, but this is the power of knowledge! With knowledge you can obtain the hard work of others, if you wish to receive what I have, then you must also work for it." Lefy said while snickering.

To have a dragon that says this kind of thing so triumphantly to a little girl... How can she say that when she just lazes around all day? But if I reprimand her she might lose

her good mood, so let's keep quiet for today.

"Big bro, I also want to eat sweets." Iluna said while pouting.

"Alright, then please help me prepare today's dinner, I'll give you dessert then."

While we were only eating products that didn't need cooking before, ever since I added the kitchen we started eating properly cooked dishes. The things we were eating looked like lunchboxes from a convenience store, it felt dull.

Though I was always the one cooking. Lefy had no reason to cook, and while Iluna had already helped in the kitchen on her home, it was limited to cutting vegetables.

I couldn't cook anything very special, but seeing the results of my hard work ended up making cooking a bit fun. Today once again, I'm sure it will be fun.

"Got it! I'll do my best!" Iluna cheerfully replied.

"Ah, uhn... I... I also want it..." Lefy meekly asked.

"If you also help me with dinner, I'll get some dessert for you.

"...No, I will pass."

Lefy's face seemed to say that she loathed working, I smiled wryly at it.

Chapter 16

Wings, Please Lead Me To The Sky (2)

Both me and Lefy left the cave while Iluna stayed watching the house.

“Uuh... I can’t bear the sunlight.” Lefy exclaimed.

“Coming to think of it, you barely left home these days.”

The only times I remember her leaving, was when she begged me for a very expensive sweet, so I ask her to get some DP for me in return... She is living as a NEET.¹

It’s weird that she doesn’t gain any weight though, Lefy eats a lot and does no exercise, yet her body is still pretty thin... I suppose it’s because she is a dragon.

“On that matter, is your territory fine? You haven’t visited it in quite a while.” I asked.

“I secured that area because I could get some high quality honey on it. I can eat better things now, so you can do whatever you want with the territory.”

You ended up here for this kind of reason...? I was stupid to not make it part of the dungeon.

Looking at her with an exasperated gaze, I thought of saying she was absolutely hopeless, but I shrugged that thought out with a bitter smile. Then, I made my wings reappear.

“Oh... You have pretty good wings...”

I didn’t know how to feel about it, but Lefy was looking all over my them.

“Well, they’re usually a bother, so... Ah, wait, stop, do-don’t touch! It tickles!”

Lefy didn’t seem to care and kept on moving her hands through them. Apparently the wings felt as if they were made of magical feathers when touched.

When I finally got away from her, she pouted and gave up on it.

“To think they’re such splendid wings... You should keep them out all the time.”

Splendid? These?

I personally think some bird-like feathers would be better, but I suppose dragons have a different sense of aesthetics.

“Your wings are a lot prettier though?”

When I first saw Lefy, her figure truly embodied the very definition of splendor and majesty, an image fitting of a legendary dragon. Her wings left a deep impression in my mind.

Well, this majesty was already completely destroyed by Lefy’s selfish and spoiled everyday behavior.

“...Tha-that much is obvious! To-to think one such as you would try making advances on me!”

Lefy doesn’t seem to be used to praises, so she got pretty embarrassed... Wa-wait a bit, those weren’t pick-up lines!

Pl-please stop that reaction, if a beautiful girl makes such a cute reaction, I won’t know how to reply!

“...Well, you see, that is, I mean, of course there is no way your sugarless wings could possibly compare to the ones of someone as great as me, the supreme dragon would never have any competition on how incredible her wings are. S-still, if yours are a bit close to be remotely okay to me, th-that is good enough, right?” Lefy flusteredly replied.

“I-is that so? Tha-thank you.”

I didn’t quite get what she meant with the first analogy, but I think she was praising me?

“I-it’s a great honor to be praised by me, you better feel grateful!”

Lefy seems to have gone back to her normal, and then, forced a cough before continuing.

“...Well, let’s leave that as is, you have a Mana Eye, right? Activate it.”

“Roger that”

As I nodded, Lefy made a beautiful pair of silver wings sprout from her back, they glittered and reflected the sunlight, completely opposite to my own black wings.

“Are those... The wings of your dragon form?”

“No, they’re imitations made of mana, well, their function is basically the same.”

Truly, I can see that they are composed of magical power when looking with my Mana Eye... And thinking of it, their size is obviously different.

“Yuki, do you have anything else to say?”

“Oh, ah, uhn... The-they are beautiful wings just like a scenery illuminated by moonlight.”

“Wrong, this kind of words don’t suit you at all, you’re talking without meaning it.”

Th-this fellow... Lefy grinned while looking at me... I was caught.

“Well, come over and take a good look.” She said while giggling.

Immediately after, a dense amount of mana started swirling through her wings... Is she pouring magical power into them?

As soon as I thought that, Lefy flapped her wings and jumped high into the air.

Her jump was elegant and admirable, which made me remember that dignity of a supreme dragon she showed before.

“Ooooh...!” I shouted with joy.

Because my wings are made of mana, I thought I had no need to do this kind of thing.

“Did you get it, little chick? Try doing the same.” Lefy exclaimed.

I nodded and starting circulating my magical power through my wings.

Move!

My wings flapped, they finally felt as if they were a part of my body now.

...Got it.

What I was trying to do, was pedaling a bicycle that had never received any oil, it would never go well.

“Alright! Jump up just like that!”

Just as she said that, I moved my wings with full force, and then, my body felt as if it was floating. Simultaneously, the wind moved fast enough that it seemed as if it would cut my cheek.

It was only then, that I realized I was flying.

“Uoooooooooh!! Wait, how do I stop!?”

I kept going higher and higher, the ground was getting farther at a tremendous speed, it was very scary.

“You put too much power on your wings, remove some of the mana.” I heard Lefy’s voice from behind me.

Following her advice, I removed some magical power In a panic.

I got somewhat useful to manipulating mana recently, so I was able to make the adjustment immediately, which made me able to control my flight, though it was still a bit clunky.

“...Incredible.”

As I could finally enjoy the scenery from up above, those words unintentionally leaked from my mouth.

The sun and the clouds feel so close, I can see a majestic wilderness down below, and while I am pretty used to it already, right now it looks completely different. The impression gets deeply engraved on my body.

I thought it would be great to see this from the sky, but it turned out to be a lot better than I expected.

“It’s amazing isn’t it?” With a proud look, Lefy came near.

I understand the feeling though, this kind of sight is something you would want to brag about.

Lefy called out to me while I was entranced by the spectacle.

“Alright Yuki, come with me, let me show you what is a real flight. If you can endure it that is.” Lefy provoked me while grinning.

“Huh? What’s up with that? Didn’t you say I was going to become one of the strongest ones in the sky?”

“Ha! Absurd! A chick like you still have a long way to go, this is what being the strongest is like.”

“Ah, wait!”

Lefy suddenly started accelerating, so I put more mana on my wings and chased after.

We both flew together for a while, but what was just a casual stroll for her, was, for me, a very high speed flight that I could barely keep up with.

Chapter 17

Unfortunate Adventurers

Adventurers.

Adventurers are people that seek, claim and fight the unknown. They receive various requests and get appropriate rewards for them.

It is a job many dream of, as those that get the most achievements can accumulate wealth, fame, land and even become nobles.

However, although 'adventurer' is a single profession, there are many different specializations, from suppression of monsters, delivering documents, exploring dungeons and even research of ruins, it is a pretty vast field.

The basic requirement though, is power. As soon as one leaves the lands ruled by humans, they enter a field of monsters where death always lies in the horizon. If one is to make their living in such environment, they need the willpower to not falter in face of adversities, and the strength to overcome them.

Those that cannot do it, will quickly reach their limits and be unable to raise their rank.

The adventurers are divided in ranks according to their strength, it starts with brass, followed by steel, silver, gold, mythril, adamantium and the last will be Orichalcum. We are on the mythril rank.

Although it is the third rank from the top, it's not really feasible for a normal human to reach orichalcum rank, they are almost the same as natural disasters; and adamantium ranked ones are known to being able to defeat a thousand warriors on their own. There are only a few dozen or so that can reach that far, which means mythril is generally as high as one can normally get.

Because of that, we ended up receiving a direct request from the guild that supervises the adventurers.

We live in the city of 'Alfiro', it's located on the border of the country, so it's a good place for experienced adventurers to get requests of monster subjugation, and since the city is well protected already, no orichalcum rank adventurer lives here.

There are a few adamantium ones, but due to some bad luck, none of them is on the city right now. It just so happened that we were the highest ranked ones currently available.

The request is about some strange occurrences on the 'Haunted Forest'.

The haunted forest is filled with the most dangerous monsters in the vicinity, and it's also where their biggest concentration lies, it's a dangerous place that one generally cannot leave with life.

Not only that, the forest's environment is extremely harsh, an ordinary person shouldn't last more than 30 minutes in it.

Due to that, it's strictly forbidden to enter the deepest parts of the forest, even adventurers are no exception, and severe penalties await anyone that breaks the rule.

Though the real reason is not because of the forest's danger, what is truly fearsome is what lies beyond it.

A being with overwhelming strength, the Supreme Dragon.

Dragons are said to be the strongest living beings, and most of them are considered at least disaster grade threats. The most powerful among them is the Supreme Dragon.

Disaster class monsters are beings strong enough to destroy a whole country by themselves, back when the Supreme Dragon was rampaging, numerous countries were destroyed and all troops sent to kill it were wiped.

The nearby countries had to unite and send a force of over 300000 people, with many orichalcum and adamantium class adventurers to suppress it, however, in a single night, almost all of them were killed. Only 1000 came back.

Not only that, the Supreme Dragon is said to change the region's topography with a single breath, and to be able to use the strongest spells in the world as if it was child's play. Although it has rarely appeared, every time history mentions that legendary dragon, disasters follow it... However, that monster doesn't seem to have much interest in anyone aside from themselves, and are known to leave others be for as long

as they don't bother it.

Therefore, all countries decided they would no longer try to interfere with the Supreme Dragon, and this agreement is still in effect.

Ever since then, the Supreme Dragon was no longer seen, over one hundred years passed and it hasn't been sighted near the Haunted Forest at all.

However, something strange is happening on the forest recently.

Half-dragons, which rarely go out of their own territory, have been seen one after another in areas extremely far from their own.

Also, a large-scale territorial dispute seems to be occurring, with monsters being pushed farther and farther from their territory.

It was thought to be the Supreme Dragon pushing those monsters away at first, but that being has yet to be seen, and yet, the other monsters keep moving.

Consequently, this is probably something else's fault, and the guild wants to know what it is.

While it is not a bad thing to have the monsters' numbers thin out, having them move is troubling.

The beings from the Haunted Forest prefer places with high concentration of mana, so they wouldn't normally approach villages outside of it. However, if they are pushed outside by another force, then it becomes dangerous.

I didn't want to accept such a stupidly dangerous job, but requests from the guild are troubling, because one loses rank if they refuse.

It's also clear that this cannot be left unattended, and we are the only ones that can do it at the moment.

Which is why the three of us entered the forest with our usual party.

◇ ◇ ◇

"Bloody bastard!!"

"Don't give in to tiredness yet, do you want to die!?"

“To think the rumors were true...”

Our team was composed of Reyes, the scout, Lowie, the mage, and me, Griffin, as a vanguard. Right now, our only option was to run.

Approaching from behind us was a ‘Horn Tiger’, breaking through the trees in its path as if they were made of paper, the tiger was hunting, and we were its prey.

Monsters are classified according to their degree of threat, they can be any of the following: harmless, hazardous, dangerous, lesser disaster, disaster, major disaster and calamity.

The Horn Tiger is part of the lesser disaster class, their strength should be enough to give some trouble to a single adamantium class adventurer, a party of mythrill class ones shouldn’t have much problem though, however, we have been forced to fight against this kind of monster one after the other even though they shouldn’t appear in this area.

The level of monsters here should be considerably lower than this... What is happening?

Since we are mythrill class adventurers, we entered the forest a fair amount of times, but we never saw this kind of monster appear close to the entrance, it’s been a few hours since we entered, but we barely made any progress.

Also, this tiger seems to have lost the territorial struggle, it is thin enough to the point that makes you think it didn’t eat anything in the past few days. The monster is looking at us impatiently, obsessed, as if it cannot control its hunger anymore.

“Lowie, can you cast something!?”

“I can’t! I haven’t recovered even 10% of my mana!”

The many back to back fights against monsters similar to this one took its toll on us. Lowie ran out of magical power and we have no potions left, even though we prepared more equipment than usual for this task.

I really should have rejected the request, even if it meant dropping rank.

“Ugh!!”

“Woah!?”

The Horn Tiger used some sort of skill and suddenly dashed from behind us to our front, blocking the path.

“Tsk, there is no choice, I’ll have to do it!” Filled with desperation, I pulled my sword from the scabbard.

Suddenly though, the wind blew heavily with a thunderous sound.

One instant later, sounds of flesh being ripped resounded. The Horn Tiger that had cornered us fell down and another monster stood where it was.

I was frozen in place. A huge wolf with beautiful fur looked at us.

It was as thick as a log, yet had very well defined muscles, with limbs that were clearly very agile, the wolf’s height was also enormous.

Its mouth has very sharp fangs which should be able to tear us apart with a single bite.

This fellow is dangerous. I felt it as soon as I saw the wolf.

I went through many hardships in my time as an adventurer, this greatly honed my instincts, and they were telling me... This monster is the biggest threat I ever saw.

My whole body screamed its wish to escape, but I couldn’t budge a single inch.

The fear of being taken down the moment I moved stopped me from doing so. My friends seemed the same, as they were completely frozen in place with their gazes fixed at the wolf.

It glanced at us for a single instant, and then, seemingly completely uninterested, the wolf turned to another side and walked away with its prey in mouth.

As soon as that monster disappeared, even though we were still within the Haunted Forest, Lowie dropped herself unto the ground.

I don’t blame her though. My whole body was also trembling, and I felt as if my legs would give in at any moment now.

“We almost lost our lives...” Lowie murmured in relief.

“That wolf, it was definitely a disaster class monster...” Reyes complemented.

“...That’s not all, were you able to notice? It had a collar in its neck.” I told them.

Just like a pet, the wolf had a beautiful collar.

“What? You mean that it belongs to someone!?” Reyes gave me a stupefied look.

I’d like to think my eyes played a trick on me.

On the matter of disaster class threats, the army does have the necessary power to subjugate them.

Mankind has developed enough to defeat foes that should be a lot stronger than us, including beastkins and disaster grade monsters.

“I wonder what kind of unthinkable existence settled on this forest.” I wondered.

Something that even disaster class threats obey, and that also scared the monsters away from the Haunted Forest.

Whatever it is, lives deep within the forest, and just imagining meeting this being send shivers down my spine.

“...Anyway, let’s get out of this forest, this place is too much for us now.” I suggested.

“Agreed, even if I had many lives, I wouldn’t want to remain here anymore.” Reyes answered.

“I don’t want to stay for even one more second.” Lowie agreed.

With this unanimous decision, we quickly moved out of the forest, as if we were running from something.

Chapter 18

Hunting with Mofir

Flying is really fun.

It feels as if I'm flowing through the sky while assimilated with the wind, the sunshine is also warmer and gentler than normal... Though that's probably just my impression.

Birds and wyverns also pass by from time to time, before they seemed like part of the scenery to me, but now I am also a part of this environment, I feel a certain affinity to them.

...I'm the only one that feels this affinity however, so they still attack me... It's somewhat pointless though.

"I wish my flight was a bit better though..." I sighed while wiping some bird's blood off my cheeks.

I no longer feel awkward while flying, and I think I'm pretty used to it already... But when I see Lefy's flying figure from up close, I still feel I have a long way to go.

She's beautiful. Her gracefulness is almost illusory, as if the whole sky around us was only a detail to make her stand out even more.

Lefy said she'd make me the ruler of the skies, but it only takes a single glance to know who this role belongs to.

I would be overwhelmed if she was in her dragon form, but with Lefy's current humanoid looks, I might mistake her for an angel.

My gaze suddenly noticed a figure down below though, so I stopped this train of thought and started gliding down.

"Hey, up here! Heey, Fir!!" I shouted.

Over there, a wolf with beautiful silver fur noticed me and lightly bowed his head.

Mofir seemed prideful, but his tail was eagerly and happily swaying.

He really was looking forward to this. Well, I love him too.

“Alright, how have you been? Were you eating properly? And, did you just grow up a bit!?”

As soon as I landed, I started caressing him and talking just like a worried mother speaks to a son that is living alone.

Fir seems to have grown because monsters within the dungeon are an excellent source of nourishment for its inhabitants, they are full of magical power.

Though one can also live by just eating wild animals if they want, which exists outside the dungeon.

However, if an inhabitant stays a certain amount of time without absorbing the dungeon’s magical power, their health starts deteriorating, so they can’t stay away for long.

Fir has basically worked within the dungeon’s territory, and since I wasn’t worried about the DP income, he could just eat the bodies of whatever monsters he killed.

Killing monsters gives more DP than absorbing their bodies, which gives more than keeping them alive within the dungeon’s territory, and all of that obviously give more DP than the natural recovery of the dungeon. That said, one can easily live by just feeding off the dungeon’s magical power, but it’s not very fulfilling.

Comparatively speaking, the equivalent would be someone that likes curry eating only that same food for the rest of their life, sooner or later it becomes bland.

Monster meat on the other hand, is very delicious. I had a hard time cooking it because I couldn’t find any information on how to cook it, so it ended up burning a bit, but still tasted great.

Lefy said it is because they are filled with mana, so this naturally enhances their taste, it seems to be common knowledge that monsters have tastier meat than animals.

Ever since I discovered that, I started stocking monster bodies in my item box, it’s still not as much as Lefy brought in that one day, but they can make a big pile if I take them all out. And since time doesn’t fly on the item box, I don’t need to worry about the

bodies rotting.

“Well Fir, we’re going. I’m not familiar with the geography over there, so could you give me a ride?”

Fir barked and shook his body in approval.

“Alright, then I’ll count on you.”

As I sat atop of him, Fir stretched his legs and got ready to run.

“Alright, you can g-gooooooooo!?”

Fir started running as soon as I gave him the greenlight. The wind’s pressure was making my whole body tremble and I was about to fall off his back, so I wrapped my arms around him and held tightly.

“Ahahaha, amazing!!” Cheering him on, we moved to the forest at full speed.



Today is the day I hunt with Fir.

I haven’t hunted any monster recently because DP wasn’t lacking, but since I spent a lot on ‘Flight’, it would be a good idea to replenish my reserves. Besides, I can play with Fir while doing this anyway, so it was a good opportunity.

We headed to the East of the cave. Nature spreads to all four cardinal directions if you start from it.

Lefy’s former territory is on the North, almost no sentient beings live there because they fear her.

The South is where the weakest monsters can be found, most of my dungeon expansion was on that area, I can fight there with ease.

The East is an area in which the monsters are average on strength, it’s a good place for me to train. Sometimes a few stronger enemies appear though.

The most dangerous monsters are on the West, it only takes a single glance to know I can't beat those, I can only enter that zone with Lefy.

This is just an oversimplification though, both eastern and western areas seem to have very strong enemies if you dive deep enough into them, Lefy advised to have caution and to not go too deep before it became too dangerous. It feels scary, but also enticing.

When I just want DP I normally go to the South, but it seems our overhunting made the monsters too scared and they started running away from the dungeon area, which made our income drop, so I'm going to expand the controlled territory to the East until the ecosystem normalizes. It's a good opportunity since I don't have that much mapped over there.

"Oh, a Horn Tiger"

Near Fir, I could see one of those, it's a tiger with a unicorn horn, and it was growling at my partner.

He may look dangerous, but he is not very strong. The 'Poison Rabbits' are a lot more hazardous, they may be as fragile as their animal counterpart, but they are very quick and their bite can make monsters a lot bigger than them lose their color in ten seconds and die in thirty.

I suppose specialized abilities end up mattering a lot more than all round ones.

In any case, let's just make this tiger become DP quietly.

While Fir distracted the monster, I dropped from up above and swung my sword against the tiger's head. It scattered pieces of its body all over the place.

This is our current strategy, it's fairly simple.

Fir pulls the attention of the enemy from below, while I fly from above, then I fall down and smash their head to pieces. In case the enemy notices me, my partner holds them in place with the 'Everchanging Chains', it has worked out really well so far.

I didn't originally plan to just descend like that, my plan was to smoothly fly down and swiftly cut their heads off, but after the race car-like speed of Fir, my muscles got a bit paralyzed.

Also, my control isn't as good as Lefy's, so I couldn't quite manage the deceleration properly, which lead to my first landing being quite terrible. Fir's reaction to the sudden monster explosion was pretty funny though.

It also scared me however, but my body wasn't damaged at all, it seems an Archdemon's body can withstand this much without worries, as my HP didn't drop one bit.

After this first experience, I completely removed the concept of 'brake' from my head and just dropped like a bullet. A pure muscle brain tactic, using my body's power without holding back... Super fun!

My favorite attractions at amusement parks have always been the ones that made me scream the most, if we ever made an attraction with this kind of entertainment, we could rack quite a bit of money.

"Ah... It broke down"

I stopped dilly-dallying when I looked at the sword in my hand, I was only holding the handle. The current attack broke the blade at its root, making the sword completely useless.

This is troublesome though, I need a weapon to fight, and make this area part of the dungeon.

I do have the magic revolver, but it takes a while to recharge, it's a nice trump card, but doesn't serve as a main weapon.

The sword however, is useless.

It simply doesn't suit me, I have already broken a few of them. My body's output is too big, the swords can't handle it and break one after the other... I need something that fits me better.

...Well, for now, why not try a bar of reinforced steel? Currently speaking, the sword was being used as a blunt weapon, so this might actually be more effective.

Taking the bar from my item box and testing some swings, it seemed like it would

work well for dropping unto monsters from the sky. Fir gave me a resigned look and let me mount on him before we started looking for the next prey.

Chapter 19

An Insect Gathering Gives Many Goosebumps

“Aaaaah, it’s on my face! My face!”

A strange colored liquid fell from a weird tree, it hit me right on the cheek... It was disgusting.

Right now, we were desperately running away. A group of dog-sized ants was chasing right after.

Their number was absurdly high, and some of them even have wings on their backs.

There were several animals at first. None of them was particularly strong, so I just smashed them with my steel bar to smash them, a few ants were also among them, but I paid it no heed and smashed them anyway.

After a while more ants appeared, but I also killed them without thinking much... However, they didn’t stop coming.

More and more of them appeared, the more I killed, the more spawned, they kept on coming at a pace bigger than I could kill, and before long we were getting overwhelmed.

And what is amazing, is their speed. Even though I’m on top of Fir, who is amazingly fast, we cannot shake them off. My partner is faster on small short bursts, but they seem to be better in a long running marathon, though Fir is still a Fenrir, so he can try to keep the distance at least.

“P-perhaps it is better if I get off?” I asked Fir, he denied it though.

I’m not flying away because Fir is faster than me, the ants also have wings, so I would be quickly overwhelmed if I tried escaping to the sky... Though Fir can’t go all out because I’m on top of him.

“A-alright... Then, let me also show my resolution!”

Saying that, I changed my posture atop of Fir from looking forwards to backwards. This would normally throw someone off, but I have the physical strength of a Demon Lord, so I can hold on.

What now though? I have long used the Magic Revolver, and my steel bar can't quite reach them, if it was able to stretch and twist it would be useful, but my weapon can't do that.

Then... Magic? Yeah, let's go with magic, I have never used spells in actual combat, but I'm sure it will be fine if I believe in myself.

Deciding that, I instantly started casting the magic I have been practicing all the time recently.

I created three snake-like dragons made of water. This water is still hot water, but it doesn't matter much. What matters is that my spells are activating and my imagination is consolidating better... Or at least I think it is.

"Eat this!!"

I threw the water dragon at the ants, it flew like a lightning and swallowed them.

This spell has a simple effect.

It throws itself against the enemies and drowns them, immediately after, the dragon coils around itself becoming a water prison.

And since the water keeps moving at high speed, it actually shreds the enemies that try escaping, making this a strong spell.

This magic did not need to be dragon-shaped though, it's like that because it is cool. I'll boast about it to Lefy later, there is a certain romance in being highly evaluated for a well done spell.

While I thought of that, my magic did its effect and was cutting the enemies to pieces.

"Wahahaha, how about that you ants!?"

...No, wait, I'm sorry, I'm sorry!"

The ants that were able to escape immediately counterattacked by spitting acid

towards us, which made me unconsciously apologize.

“Those ants...” I immediately threw more water dragons at them.

...Annoying.

As I casted my spells, my teeth started grinding against one another and I felt troubled.

Magic is working well, but... There are too many enemies, I'll probably run out of MP before there are no more enemies.

There is no other spell I'm good at casting too, I have been practicing only the water dragon for a while now.

...It can't be helped, we'll be surrounded if I don't do anything.

Opening my item box, I took a monster's corpse out... It felt sacrilegious to waste it like this. Still, I threw it at the ants running after us.

“Eat this!”

At first they tried avoiding the obstacles I threw at them, but when they noticed those were monster corpses, they stopped chasing and started devouring its flesh.

E-eh? I expected it to only get in their way for a bit.

“...A-alright! All according to the plan! Let's run away Fir!”

Pretending that was my plan all along, I commanded him, however, Fir smirked, seeming to know what really happened. He ran away in a quick pace.

◇ ◇ ◇

Once we finally got far enough from the ants, I breathed a sigh of relief.

“Aah... I'm seriously worn out. It's enough for today Fir.”

“Kuu?”

“Let’s go back and stay on the dungeon for the rest of today... Really now, their numbers were humongous, that was scary.”

“Ku.”

“Yeah, there was probably an anthill near that area.”

The anthills I saw on TV back in my previous life could be bigger than a person, with ants that big, it wouldn’t surprise me if that one was bigger than a mountain.

I ran away before I could do so, but if I made that place part of the dungeon, a lot of DP would probably come my way.

I won’t ever get close to it again though, I don’t hate insects, but that ant army gave me goosebumps, it felt as if I was Indiana Jones running away from a horde of enemies.

“However...” I kept on thinking while Fir carried me.

Right now, I am too weak. So far I have been able to brute force my way out of things, but I won’t be able to do that if I fight large number of enemies like I did today. I should focus on my magic training as well, and try increasing my possibilities of attack.

I’ll think of proper attack spells from now on.



Incidentally, when I showed the Water Dragons to Lefy later...

“Yuki, is it really necessary for it to be dragon shaped...?”

“No, but why not?”

“...Oh well, I guess that’s a weird favorite of men.”

I can’t deny it.

Chapter 20

Creative Demon Lord (1)

I understood it while hunting with Fir... I have no weapons.

Using a sword was fine because I'm in a different world, but it didn't really suit me. Right now I'm looking at the DP catalogue to find a suitable substitute.

"Hmm..." I pondered as I scratched my head.

Since it's the most orthodox weapon, swords are the type with the most variety. I was only using cheap ones though, but maybe if I buy a more expensive weapon I can find something good, though I feel bad for wasting money only to check if a single sword is useful.

Spears and bows are also being sold, but they seem hard to use, so they don't work as substitutes. There are also some weapons with romance, like a sickle or a whip, but it wouldn't suit me either, having a high dexterity apparently doesn't make it easier to wield a weapon.

On the other hand, the steel bar was easy because I just needed to move it around, my main weapon should give a feeling like that...

Perhaps a club?

...Nice, let's put it as a candidate.

Though how would a Demon Lord look if they wielded a club? It's fine if there isn't anything else, but I would like to use something that made me look like a last boss.

I mean, what would a last boss wield? Would a sword fit better?

...Actually, most last bosses weren't humanoids in the first place, maybe I should learn a spell to change my form to a monstrous one? That'd be nice, being able to make a beastly howl would be awesome.

Wait, wait, I should calm down and think about it seriously.

I need a weapon that doesn't knock enemies down with skill or technique, but with brute force and weight. In that case a large weapon is nice, like a hammer or a... Great sword?

I moved my finger through the DP catalogue with this idea in mind.

Since it is still a sword, I will be benefited by the 'swordsmanship' skill, and this weapon will have more weight than the sword or steel bar I used so far.

And most importantly, it's cool.

Being cool is important because it will increase my motivation. Training is boring, if there isn't something to make it exciting, I'll be unable to do it for a long time. This is why it's important, I'm not just a kid that wants to show off.

"Nice, there it is." I touched the catalogue and bought a Great Sword.

This was the cheapest one within the list because they were all too expensive.

"I thought you had finally decided to stop playing games, but did you just buy another weapon?"

At that moment, Lefy, who had a triumphant look because she was winning an Othello game against Iluna, came to me... She never won when I played against her, but feels proud about winning against a little girl.

"This game will one day make me able to take a scale of your dragon form." I replied.

"Oh? The scales of this great me are tougher than steel made by the gods, you know? I'll look forward to your attempt."

I was a bit frustrated while looking at Lefy's grin, so I grasped the sword tightly, which is when I noticed... It's light.

This weapon is still too light, it's useless. There is still more weight than what the small sword or steel bar had, but I wanted something as heavy as a rock. It would be

impossible for me to wield that in my previous life, but it should be easy for me right now.

Besides, the blade is thin.

I wanted a big and wide sword that could strike a wall without getting a dent, but right now it looks closer to a Zweihander or a Claymore, it would probably get damaged if it hit something like that.

It's probably because this is a weapon made for humans, so even though it's heavy, the sword has plenty of mechanisms to lighten it up, even if just a little... But I don't need that, a heavier sword would be much better.

Perhaps things would be different with a more expensive weapon, but after spending that much DP on 'Flight', I prefer not splurging too much. However, it's pointless with this kind of cheap stuff.

Wait... I remember seeing something while I looked at the catalogue before.

I quickly scrolled through the list and found the skill I wanted, 'Weapon Creation'.

Its effect explanation says to prepare the material, and activate the skill while imagining the shape of the weapon you want to produce while pouring mana on it. The final result depends on the quality of the 3 ingredients, it gets easier to make higher quality items as the skill levels up.

If I can't find a good weapon I'll just make one myself, I'll become an all-round creative demon lord!

Chapter 21

Creative Demon Lord (2)

Creative Demon Lord, it's a nice name, I bet I'm the first one to come up with it.

For the sake of using the 'Weapon Creation' skill, creativity is as important as good materials, though I can just buy those on the catalogue. A good mental image is also necessary, but I got that covered with my training to make the water dragon. Lastly, Lefy already said that my mana is above average, so it should not be a problem either.

With all of this, making a high quality weapon should be possible.

Also, together with the 'Weapon Creation' skill, I also found another one, 'Bestow Enchantment'.

I asked Lefy how to use it, and it seems to simply need a good mental image, just like most other spells. Its effect allows me to create a magic circuit that, at least on level 1, can either increase the length of the item, or reduce the mana cost of spells.

As the skill level ups, more circuits with more effects can be added, though one cannot modify an already completed enchantment unless they memorize the circuit of the item, so I want to try remembering the ones I make.

Also, the amount of enchantments that can be put in an object depend on their size, shape and quality; for example, a weapon made of mythril would endure many more circuits than an iron one.

I intend to use this skill a lot to rapidly raise its level, right now it shouldn't help much, but it should become the difference between heaven and Earth if it reaches a high level... Eventually, I want to make some weapons full of special effects, just like those from RPGs.

As I thought of this, I bought the 'Bestow Enchantment' skill and checked my status to see if everything was okay.

Name: Yuki

Race: Archdemon

Class: Demon Lord

Level: 32

HP: 2511/2511

MP: 7180/7180

Strength: 713

Resistance: 744

Agility: 652

Mana: 992

Dexterity: 1310

Luck: 72

Skill points: 3

Unique skills: Mana Eye, Language Translation, Flight

Skills: Item Box, Analysis Lv 8, Martial Arts Lv IV, Beginner Magic Lv 4, Spy Lv 5, Enemy Detection Lv 4, Swordsmanship Lv 1, Weapon Creation Lv 1, Bestow Enchantment Lv 1

Titles: Demon Lord of a Parallel World, Owner of the Supreme Dragon

DP: 32041

Alright, I properly learned it, my level also rose considerably since the last time I looked, and it's nice to see that luck increased a bit too.

My skill points were all spent on leveling analysis because it's a really useful skill, so I will max it first, my goal is seeing Lefy's status.

I got a weird title though... I hovered my finger over it to see the description.

Owner of the Supreme Dragon: Tamed the dragon that can bring the world to its knees.

...Isn't it a bit wrong? While she certainly acts like a pet at times, I'm pretty sure Lefy would get really upset if I treated her as one.

Regarding titles though, when I talked to Lefy about having the 'Demon Lord of a Parallel World' one, she just replied with a dull 'Hmph'. I guess she doesn't care about this kind of thing.

I would be lying if I said I have no attachments to my previous life, but it is already something on the past, and I am okay with it. Besides, living as a Demon Lord is pretty fun.

The place that I live on is 'my world', even if the environment changed, this won't change.

...That's enough about thinking of my previous life though, let's use some skills.

I bought a fist sized iron ingot from the catalogue to test it out.

"Oh, Yuki is going to do something strange again."

"Big bro, what new magic will you use now?"

Iluna came pouting after losing an Othello match against Lefy, the latter was giggling while murmuring how easy it was.

"It's not magic, but it is similar I guess? And Lefy, I don't always make weird things." I just try doing stuff I wouldn't be able to normally do.

"Well, this won't be very interesting to look at though."

Even though I said that, Iluna seemed to be eagerly waiting for it, while Lefy seemed to not care about my remark, so after giving her a bitter smile, I turned my face forward.

First, let's make a dagger.

I imagined a stainless steel knife held by soldiers, the kind that usually appears in shooting games, and then put my mana on the material.

Once enough magical power spread through it, I activated the 'Weapon Creation' skill, and the iron quickly molded itself to what I imagined, as if it had a will of its own... The sight was a bit creepy.

"Oh... It worked." I commented.

The knife fit my image perfectly, it had a thick iron blade of about 12cm, the handle was also made of iron though, so it would be good to wrap something around it for a better grip.

To try it out, I opened my item box and took some dead monsters' bodies out and cut them to pieces, the knife did it easily.

Even though this weapon didn't go through a normal forging process, it cuts really well, did the magic directly influence the iron element?

Wondering how good it is, I used my analysis skill on the weapon.

Demon Lord's Dagger: An iron dagger made by Demon Lord Yuki. No Inscription. Quality B-.

Because analysis is at a high level, I can also see the quality of the weapon. B- is a good number, about 1000 yen above what an everyday tool would cost.

It was a pretty nice outcome for the first try, according to the skill's description, my dexterity has an influence on how good the final product is. To be a creative Demon Lord, I should increase my dexterity even more!

"Oh, isn't this the forging skill used by the mountain people? You did a pretty good job with it." Lefy commented.

"Big bro is amazing! Your cooking is also very good! You look just like a mother!" I think I should be happy with Iluna's praise?

"...Now for the real thing." Saying that, I opened the catalogue again and bought a 10 kilograms iron ingot out. I wanted to use mythril, but it was way too expensive for something that I had just understood how it worked.

I was now going to make a bigger and larger knife... Wait, didn't the effect of 'Bestow Enchantment' depend on the shape of the weapon, I should take that into account.

The element that is going to be infused will probably be water, so I should try something that conducts it more easily, maybe a weapon resembling a water drop.

And because I overthought it...

Even though the blade was made from iron, it looked fluid and had a bluish tone... Can it even be called a weapon?

“Wow, it’s Shii!” Iluna commented... It really did look like a slime.

“Uhn... What is this?” Lefy asked.

“...It’s a weapon.” I replied.

“Oh? Then please teach me professor, how do I use it?” She pressed on.

“Well... You hold the handle and... Use its water drop-like part to crush the enemies.”

“I see, it seems like a very strong weapon.” She replied mockingly.

Well, I’m glad I didn’t use mythrill to make this kind of garbage, it would take me quite a while to recover the used DP if I did.

“Alright... One more time.” Let’s buy some more iron and... Wait wait, there is that thing.

I opened the item box instead of the catalogue and took the horn of a giant beetle. This fellow broke a tree down with a single blow, it might be a better material.

The horn is pretty big and moderately heavy, so it should fit a great sword well. Iron was good, but this should be even better.

Alright, focus. I thought of too many things last time and messed up badly, focusing on the simple things is better, so I’ll ignore the part of enchanting for now.

It needs to be heavy and sharp... The shape should be like that... And needs two edges... Alright, this is enough.

My MP was being quickly drained while I solidified the image, using a good material also consumes more mana, two thirds were gone already, so I cannot fail this.

Properly focused, I was about to activate the skill when Lefy appeared on the corner of my view, sneaking up on me, she got closer and whispered on my ear, “A-flo-wer” a flower?

“...Wa-wait a minute! Wh-what’s this!?” I exclaimed.

The skill was activated and the weapon was completed, however, it has a flower

blooming at its tip. As if the blade was a stalk with its petals on the top.

I analyzed it to see the outcome.

Great Sword of the Demon Lord: A beautiful weapon, made by Demon Lord Yuki, with a flower at its top. No inscription. Quality A-.

It became like that because I thought of a flower! And the good quality is wasted as well!

“Wha-what are you doing!?” I asked Lefy.

Remaking it... Impossible. It seems like I can't use 'Weapon Creation' on the same target, and I'm out of MP, so I wouldn't be able to anyway.

This was the only horn I had as well, that beetle was a pretty rare monster, so it will take a while for me to find one even if I go hunt again.

In other words, this flower blade is the best weapon I can currently make.

“Isn't this a good weapon? I think it's very fashionable.” Lefy said while suppressing her laughter.

“I-I only had one of those!!”

“We-well, if you use this weapon... I'm sure a lot of monsters would love to slaughter you!” Unable to endure it any longer, Lefy stopped holding her belly and rolled on the floor laughing.

“You... You don't just look like a child, you are one on the inside! First teaching me how to making flowers as my first spell, then making this flower blade! And you also love sweets, you're just a girl and no Supreme Dragon!!”

“Wh-what part of me isn't lovable? Tell me which doesn't fit your tastes!!”

“My tastes doesn't matter! I'm saying what you do and what you are don't fit at all!!”

“Y-yoooooou! What kind of thing do you think you are saying to the Supreme Dragon!? Do you want to be taught a lesson by this great me!?”

“Supreme dragon this Supreme Dragon that, you are no Supreme Dragon, you’re just a fallen dragon!!”

“What!? Say that again! Yuki, you have sealed your fate, I’ll send you to hell!”

As she saw what was happening, Iluna commented, “Oh, it started again... Hey Shii, let’s go play” which got a response from the small figure near the throne.

Once our anger calmed down, we found out that this weapon’s performance wasn’t bad, so Lefy said it should become my main weapon for a while...

I need to get some good material as soon as possible.

Chapter 22

Idle Talk: The Man Named Yuki

He is a strange man.

“Why was big bro fine after falling from such a big height?” Iluna asked me.

“Oh... That is... Yuki had a magical pendant that protected him.”

Iluna is still a little girl and she never saw anyone that lived as long as me, this small vampire gets easily excited while hearing stories about Yuki and ends up believing most of what I say.

Knowledge and common sense are things that you need to construct, one can't know about it if nobody ever tells them.

Yuki is... A wonderful, but strange man.

This guy would be unremarkable if he was just another Demon King ruling over a dungeon, but Yuki seems to be completely different from the rest of his kind.

It's not his origin, but rather, the feeling he gives. I can't put it into proper words, but Yuki seems to have a gift to attract people, his magical power makes people by his side relax and feel relieved. I'm sure that little girl unconsciously knows it.

Or perhaps it is because Yuki doesn't seem to hide his emotions, he is honest and somewhat innocent, while also having some firm beliefs... In any case, this guy clearly has something that distinguishes himself from others.

The last few hundred years have been boring.

When the world was in turmoil, idiots and more idiots kept on fighting one another and challenging me for battle, before I noticed it, I had earned the title of Supreme Dragon.

Once that happened, nobody dared trying again, as they shivered in front of my title.

Even dragons, who are said to be the strongest race, prostrated themselves before me.

And even though, on our first meeting, this guy was absolutely overwhelmed by the difference between us, he got over it pretty quickly and started having an attitude. I often quarrel with Yuki, which is something completely new for me, I had never argued with anyone before.

Really now... I don't know if he has a lot of courage, or if he just doesn't understand what is fear.

Still, Yuki is the only one that looks at me not as the Supreme Dragon, but as the being named Leficios.

It's a new and fresh feeling, a very comfortable one.

I don't know for how long this comfortable lifestyle will last, but I hope it will be for a while longer... I wish to immerse myself in this comfortableness.

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1. Idle Talks are chapters that usually come from the point of view of other characters and don't directly influence the story, but give you a bit of a notion on how they view the current situation. This chapter is from Lefy's Point of view.

Chapter 23

Character Roster

Dungeon Residents:

Yuki:

Race: Archdemon.

Class: Demon Lord.

Job: Dungeon Master.

Role: The Protagonist of the Story.

Remarkable Characteristics: Has wings made of mana, but keeps them hidden while not flying because they are a bother.

Personality: Has a strong will, but frequently loses his cool

Origin: A Demon Lord that came from Earth, isn't very affected by his previous life.

Weakness: Is very embarrassed about his Mana Eye due to its red color.

Leficios:

Race: Ancient dragon.

Class: Supreme Dragon.

Nickname: Lefy.

Remarkable Characteristics: Stays most of the time in humanoid form, has silver hair.

Personality: Is pretty knowledgeable, but extremely childish.

Likes: Sweets, but kept it a secret to maintain her image until Yuki found it out.

Relationship with the Protagonist: Makes him give her sweets from the human world everyday, he became somewhat full of himself after finding her secret though.

Iluna:

Race: Vampire.

Remarkable Characteristics: Is still a little girl, but is pretty clever, has blond hair.

Personality: Very innocent. She, together with Shii, gives a soothing aura to the dungeon.

Favorite Food: Yuki's blood.

Relationship with the Protagonist: Yuki is very scared on how to behave around her once she reaches adulthood.

Dungeon Monsters:

Shii:

Race: Slime.

Role: Pet.

Remarkable Characteristics: Yuki's first dungeon monster, very cute, is the dungeon's best cushion.

Likes: Naps.

Relationship with the Residents: Yuki, Iluna, and sometimes Lefy like sleeping atop of her.

Mofir:

Race: Fenrir.

Gender: Male.

Nickname: Fir, comes from Mofumofu.

Personality: Usually nervous.

Relationship with the Residents: While he is a legendary monster with potential to become as strong as Lefy, he is treated as the one with the bottommost position of the dungeon.

Functions: Being Iluna's and Shii's playmate, hunting on the dungeon's area outside the cave.

Side Characters:

Reyes, Lowie and Griffin: Adventurers from the nearby city, the very definition of side characters, maybe they'll get some chance of appearing again.

[Arc 2: First Contact]

Chapter 24

An Unexpected Accident

I could hear the sound of liquid moving through her throat.

A heavy breathing melted my reasoning.

I felt her heat through my skin while my body was burning, at the same time a sweet smell fills my nostrils.

“Haa... it was delicious. Thank you big bro!”

Iluna drank my blood until she was satisfied, then wiped her mouth and gave a blooming smile, however, a bit of blood was stuck on the corners of her mouth, making it a devilish and bewitching grin.

“...Yo-you’re welcome.” Though I said that, I was actually averting my eyes due to how much mental strain I was suffering.

This happens every time. It’s not that Iluna drinks too much blood to the point I feel tired, I’m actually glad to help her... Her actions keep shaving my willpower though.

I’m not a pedophile! I have no such thoughts about her...!

“I’m happy I can drink big bro’s tasty blood.” Iluna said such a selfish thing while smiling, it seems Lefy is influencing her a bit.

“Is there any difference in the blood’s taste?” I asked.

“It’s completely different!” Iluna raised her whole body while exclaiming that, she’s so cute. “Your blood is very tasty! And I’m left with a very pleasant feeling after drinking it!” She complemented.

“I-is that so... We-well, I’m glad you find it that delicious.”

Please don't say anything about it to others though, I'll get arrested.

"Then, I'll go play outside!" Iluna proclaimed.

"Alright, but there are monsters out there, so don't go too far. And come back before it's dark."

"Yees!" Iluna cheerfully replied while leaving. However... Even after night fell, she did not return.



"Fir, did you find her?" I asked him as soon as he entered the room, but Fir shook his head in denial.

Damn, I thought it shouldn't be too overprotective, but I messed up... Was I too naive?

Fir got closer and chewed on my clothes while Shii snuggled with me. "...It will be alright." Their presence calmed me down a bit, so I took a deep breath to clear my thoughts... This situation won't get any better if I get taken by anger.

"Sorry Fir, I interrupted you, please continue."



Iluna was apparently kidnapped by humans, Fir was chasing after her smell, but he sensed the odor of people.

Also, Fir saw a horse carriage near the end of the forest, so he decided that it was better to come back in a hurry to report the situation.

It was a good decision, even if Fir is strong, I'm unsure if he would be able to rescue Iluna in case they reached a human village.

At least she wasn't attacked by monsters. The current situation is terrible, but since Iluna was kidnapped... I can save her.

Originally, Iluna was a slave that somehow managed to escape, and was then picked

up by me.

In other words, she fled from someone. I can't be certain, but this is probably their fault.

After checking the map once, I saw that Iluna didn't go far from the dungeon's territory, they never went too deep into the forest.

Lefy told me that this area wasn't explored by humans, for them to enter such a dangerous place and take Iluna away... They were confident she was there. Only the ones she escaped from could know that.

They must be very obsessed with the possible profits of selling her, or maybe the buyer was already decided?

If it's the latter, there are chances she will be out of reach by tomorrow.

"...Lefy, where is the nearest human habitation?" I asked.

"There is a place to the Southeast, about two hours away." She answered.

...Two hours?

That's closer than I thought... No, it's a reasonable distance if we go by flight.

...This must be a fucking joke.

They will regret the day my child was taken from my hands with their death.

I took a humongous great sword out of my item box, I made this one a bit after the flower blade. It has a simple shape, but the weight and thickness are more than enough to kill someone.

This weapon was made with a level two usage of Bestow Enchantment, I called it Purple Blade. The skill gave the ability to put enemies under the status effect 'Poison (Weak)'. While it says 'Weak', the effect is based on how much mana I put on the sword, I did a few tests and the poison can become strong enough to instantly change flesh's color to purple if I put enough magical power on it.

I look forward to what will happen when I can use effects above the 'Weak' category.

“Fir, come with me, I’ll need you to track Iluna’s smell. Shii, I know how you feel, but I’ll ask you to stay home, wait for me and I will definitely rescue Iluna.” After calling them out, I turned to Lefy.

“...Lefy, I beg you, would you please come too?”

When I said that, she just shrugged her shoulders.

“What are you talking about? Isn’t it obvious? That little girl is already part of the family, so... Follow me, I’ll show you something nice.” Was her reply.

“Ah? What are you-?”

“What are you waiting for? Come with me, Yuki.”

Without understand what she wanted, I followed her out of the cave... Soon enough, I realized there was something floating on the sky.

Not just one thing, many, they kept on increasing rapidly and would soon cover the whole view... Their identity was, a horde of dragons.

They aren’t sub-species like wyverns, their strength is clearly as big as their bodies. Taking a look at the status of those dragons, they seem to be as powerful as the strongest monsters on the West of the dungeon.

“This is...”

“So, what do you think of my followers? I heard we needed to search for Iluna, so I gathered a workforce. The purpose changed, but I think it would be good to give those foolish humans a taste of what is real power. Their numbers should be enough for that, shouldn’t it?” Lefy said that while grinning.

This is... When I noticed Iluna was gone, I actually kept silent about it. To think she did all this while I worried...

“Lefy... You are a good woman”

“It certainly took you a while to realize it, aren’t you a bit too slow?” She said while giggling.

That's right... She has always been good.

"So, Yuki. Let's go pick our little sister up?"

"I'm counting on you, partner"

Lefy laughed cheerfully in reply.

Just you wait Iluna, I will definitely save you.

Chapter 25

Within a Cage

It felt cold and... Hard?

Something was amiss.

I'm generally surrounded by a fluffy and warm mattress that lets me sleep comfortably... Today I was awakened by an unpleasant coldness.

Rubbing my eyes a bit, I slowly rose.

My drowsy eyes started focusing on the surroundings, evenly spaced iron bars and a low ceiling that doesn't even allow me to stand up properly...!

I jolted awake.

There was an uncomfortable feeling around my neck, a collar surrounded it and had a chain connected to a ring on the floor. That binding also had mana on it, so it's probably a magical tool.

I'm trapped within a cage.

Taking a deep breath, my thoughts drifted to the last things I could remember.

When I was playing near the cave, some strange men appeared and poured a weird liquid down my throat that made me faint. Which leads to the current scenario.

Feeling restless, I checked the dimly lit surroundings and saw lots of other cages nearby, one had a girl with beast ears, another with sheep ears and some that looked like monsters... There were only girls though, not a single man was in sight.

Even though their races were different, they all had one thing in common. Despair, despair and resignation filled their eyes, I could see this much even at my young age.

At that moment, the sound of two people's footsteps resounded, quickly arriving

closer to my location, I turned my gaze towards them while wondering what it was about.

“We got lucky, I was sure she was already dead.”

“I know, right? We were going to become food for the monsters in the arena.”

The two men came from the back while making such a conversation... I remember them. They were the ones that appeared in front of me while I played around, and they were also part of the group that destroyed my hometown.

“Wake up you damn brat! You gave us a lot of work this time!”

The man hit my face from outside the cage, I was thrown to the other side and hit the back of my head on the bars while screaming in pain, tears started forming on my eyes as I looked towards them.

“Hey, stop it. I understand how you feel, but we’ll be damned if you lower the value of this product. That brat will go to a pervert noble, so hold yourself back.” The other man said with the disdain.

The first man snorted and lowered himself to the height of my eyesight. “Listen brat, you are going to become a toy for nobility in the future, your body will become their plaything and you’ll see a hell worse than death everyday through sex, isn’t it great?” He held an absolutely disgusting smile while speaking those terrifying words.

My body started trembling and tears started spilling from my eyes and I knew they were not from the pain... However, I closed my mouth shut.

It will be alright... Because I have an older brother. He is kind, loves people and makes me feel warm. I was scared of him at first, but that’s not the case anymore.

He will definitely come to help.

Last time I had only despair, my hometown was crushed and my family was killed, my heart was being crushed... This time though, I can have hope, I have someone to support me.

Besides, even if things got too tough, sis should be able to solve everything, both of

them are quite strong and even scary monsters can be easily beaten by them... That is why, it will be alright.

The first man snorted again. "This damn kid..." Unamused by my lack of reaction, he clicked his tongue and told the other guy "Let's go" and left.



Once they were out of sight, I rubbed my eyes and started thinking. Simply waiting is not an option.

Crying and sorrowfully screaming won't help anyone, hoping for help isn't enough either. I need to create an opportunity to grasp a rescuing hand by taking the first step.

For now, I need to buy time. It's impossible to escape because I don't know where this is, but I can hide in a safe place while waiting for those two I long for.

Coming to this conclusion, I channeled those feelings of helplessness on the surroundings and murmured.

"Oh earth spirt, please grant me your strength." On that moment, a small brown light emerged from the ground, it is not very bright and almost blends into the darkness, but they are definitely there.



‘Protection of the Spirit King.’ This is my secret title, one that even Lefy can’t perceive, Yuki obviously can’t either.

This title allows me to look into people’s heart and sense the good and evil within them, while also granting me divine protection and allowing the usage of spirit magic. Not only that, the title and the skills that come with it are invisible to others.

This is what allowed me to escape last time and made my survival amidst the Haunted Forest possible until I was rescued by Yuki.

“Please earth spirit, I ask you to open this cage and remove the collar that binds me.” The light moved up and down as if it was nodding, then entered the collar for a moment, and on the next, the binding fell down.

They must have thought that there was no need to worry because the collar is magical, but this does not matter to the spirit. Spirits are made of mana and they eat and control magical power. Therefore, living beings cannot stop them.

Magical tools do not work without mana, sucking all the magical power of an item is a piece of cake for a spirit.

Once they were done with the collar, the light moved into the cage and opened its door after a few moments.

I thanked the earth spirit and then called for a dark spirit.

Aside from the 4 basic elements of earth, water, wind and fire, spirits can also be of light or dark elements.

While the earth ones are good at handling minerals and metals, a dark spirit has pride in being able to blend with the environment and deceive others’ eyes.

...I would like to help the other encaged people if possible, but I can’t do that right now, everyone being released at once would cause too much of a commotion.

Please wait for a while longer, big bro will definitely not forsake you all.

“...Thank you, Dark Spirit.” And like this, I safely escaped while unnoticed.

Chapter 26

Conflict in Alfiro

“My lord, it’s terrible!!”

Raylor, the lord of the city of Alfiro, was waken up in the middle of the night by one of his servants.

“...You’re noisy, what is it? Did monsters attack or something?”

“Th-that’s right!! Around one hundred monsters are coming from above the Haunted Forest!” This woke Raylor up on the spot.

“So it has come to this... You said the monsters came from above, are they wyverns then?”

“N-no sir! They’re dragons!!”

“What!?” This threw Raylor off balance.

Dragons are the strongest race of monsters in the world. Even adamantium class adventurers, who can defeat a thousand enemies by themselves, need a group to defeat a single one of those.

To think a hundred of them would come at once, it’s the worst situation possible. If it’s not handled properly, this town, no, this country will collapse.

“Summon all guards and adventurers on standby! Now!! Put the city in state of emergency and start evacuating the civilians!”

The servant moved out carry Raylor’s words, bustle quickly spread through the manor.

Getting out of bed, the lord took a single glance at an item on the bedroom. A report saying there was something amiss with the Haunted Forest.

Because of that, Raylor increased the city's forces out of caution, but... How would this be enough to fight that? Hopefully they would be able to buy enough time to evacuate the civilians.

He came to the conclusion that his life might not last further than this day.

With those thoughts in mind, Raylor went out of his room to take command of the situation.



Under the moonlight, a horde of dragons charged forward. They were very organized, as if it was a single creature altogether.

It's a bit weird to see such strong monsters being so well-behaved, but that's probably because they are scared of Lefy.

Even if they are prideful, and superior if compared to everything else in the world, they aren't even close to Lefy, so their ego is crushed and they submit.

Meanwhile, Fir is running at high speed down there, not being left behind by us even though we're flying.

"I see it!"

With enhanced sight, that cannot even be compared to a human's, I saw the city in the horizon. It's a lot bigger than I expected and the walls are incredibly tall.

Even if it's already evening, the lights are all lit and heavily armed people are busily moving around the walls.

We're still pretty far, but... I think they're too late to try capturing us.

...It's my first time visiting a city on this world though, I wish the circumstances were different.

While thinking this kind of thing, Lefy summoned her wings and flew nearby from the head of a dragon.

“Yuki, if someone like me crushes this city Iluna will probably end up dying in the chaos so please go rescue our little princess!”

“Got it, please make sure the dragons don’t rampage then.”

“You don’t need to tell me that!”

After being reassured by Lefy’s reply, I dived into the city while dodging spells and arrows, quickly landing within it. Immediately after, Fir jumped from a rooftop he easily climbed, just like the city’s walls, and started sniffing.

“Fir, can you find Iluna’s smell!?” He nodded in approval and then pointed his nose towards a direction.

“Alright, take me there!” I put my arm around his neck and jumped on Fir’s back as he started running.

“Out of the way, I won’t stop!” Some soldiers tried standing in our path, but we ignored those mobs. The only thing that matters right now, is reaching Iluna.



Like that, we quickly arrived at one of the city’s districts. In front of us there was a large building that was clearly bigger than all others, it was probably owned by a powerful person.

Is this... Is this the place?

“Gaaaaaaah!” With a loud shout, I jumped from Fir’s back and broke the building’s door with my sword.

“What is this?” “Who the hell is that!?” The men inside shouted.

Ignoring them, I took a look at the surroundings as I went inside. The place seemed like a shop furnished with decorations of terrible taste, it had a second floor above and the stairway up was illuminated by a fancy chandelier.

Some men were preparing to escape while dragging some girls through chains. Iluna is not among them... I could hear my teeth grinding against one another.

These guys... How much do they want to anger me?

“Damn you all!!” One of them shouted, those guys clearly want to get rid of me.

They violently pushed the girls, that looked like slaves, into a backroom, took out their weapons and came towards me at once.

But if you attack me like that... I’ll kill you. This is fine though.

The first man that got near me was raising a mace, I swang my sword casually and his head flew away, making him fall on the ground with a pool of blood.

The other enemies staggered and turned pale while releasing some dull sounds, I didn’t miss this opportunity, so I dived towards them and attacked with my sword, using much power as I could.

Some of them reacted in time and raised their defenses, it didn’t matter though.

The ones that couldn’t defend lost half of their bodies, the rest was blown off to a wall because of the slash’s strength.

This is one of the reasons I chose a great sword. I can use this kind of brutal attack without any special gadget.

“Die!!” Those that weren’t hit tried to make use of the gap after such a large strike to get rid of me... Unfortunately for them, I’m not alone.

Fir came from behind and tackled the man, he could not react to my partner’s speed and died with his upper body being crushed by Fir.

“Tsk, this guy has a monster on his side! Bring that here!” A man that looked like their leader yelled something and his underlings went inside and brought a crystal ball with them, they all started some sort of operation around it as well.

“...Is that a Magical tool?” Just as I said that, the ball shone and Fir suddenly staggered, though he got back on his feet right after, even if with a bitter expression.

“Are you okay buddy?” Fir shook his head to say it is fine, but he looked sick. I instantly

turned my eyes towards the crystal and used my analysis skill.

Jamming Crystal: Disturbs the flow of mana from nearby monsters and makes their movement slower, efficacy depends on how strong the monster is. Quality: B+.

This effect... I see, so this is how that garbage entered the Haunted Forest, they had this kind of tool. I thought it was strange they entered such a dangerous place to capture Iluna while being such weaklings, but they could do it because this crystal ball is amazing.

Their leader started sneering, though he didn't hide his angry expression and started ordering his henchmen.

"This fucker... It's a bluff! This item is worth as much as we paid for it, the Jamming Crystal never failed and stopped all monsters we've seen! Kill them!"

These guys... Didn't they see how many I already killed? Or is their stupidity so high that it's impossible to understand this much?

"It's okay Fir, stay there." I told my partner who was about to go after them. My mana started flowing as I prepared my spell.

"What!?" Their astonished leader could only say that when seeing my Water Dragon.

"Go!" With my shout, the spell activated and swallowed the enemies in a single moment, they have no techniques that can save them from the insides of a dragon, so they quickly drowned and were chopped into pieces by the water flow. Before long, none of them moved anymore.



What was left could only be portrayed as a depiction of hell, organs scattered through the room and everything was died red... I felt nothing from watching it though, no strange feelings from killing this many humans. It seems I don't consider myself the same as them anymore.

"...Well, it's convenient." As I have no hesitation in throwing all this garbage to hell.

I crushed the magic ball with my sword, then threw it away.

“...Fir, what about Iluna?” He made a saddened expression and denied, the smell of blood made it too hard to track her.

Well, if I start killing every single person of this group, sooner or later we'll find Iluna's whereabouts.

Chapter 27

Conclusion (1)

Name: Haiee
Race: Human
Class: Swindler
Level: 12
HP: 0/290
MP: 0/72
Strength: 160
Endurance: 140
Agility: 81
Magical power: 26
Dexterity: 73
Luck: 91
Skills: Trickery Lv 1
Titles: Kidnapper, Murderer.

Name: Sudedan
Race: Human
Class: Axeman
Level: 15
HP: 0/331
MP: 0/81
Strength: 213
Endurance: 202
Agility: 98
Magical power: 27
Dexterity: 105
Luck: 171
Skills: Axe Combat Lv 1
Title: Rapist, Murderer.

First name: Kedanke
Race: Human
Class: Accountant
Level: 7
HP: 0/181
MP: 0/82
Strength: 115
Endurance: 102
Dexterity: 126
Magical power: 31
Dexterity: 211
Good luck: 117
Skills: Arithmetic Lv 2, Speedreading Lv 1
Title: Rapist, Fugitive.

Weak.

I could only laugh at this bunch of junk, I can't believe these guys are so weak.

Even my initial stats were around 600, while they only have 100 to 200... And their MP is lower than Iluna's.

Are humans this weak? I'm glad the dungeon changed my race when it summoned me.

"Hey, where is the blond girl?" While sitting in a formerly luxurious room, now filled with corpses, I asked a man that looked like a pig.

"Bastard, who do you think agyaaaaaaaa!"

"Bad, pig... I really can't see any difference between you and livestock, maybe I should give you to a farmer." I said that while pinning his hand to the desk with a dagger taken from a corpse.

"Do you have any idea what will happen if you keep this up!? The nobles won't keep silent!"

I kicked his face, "If you don't stop babbling, I'll kill you." he shut up with that.

I'm interrogating them because I couldn't find Iluna. Even after searching every nook and cranny of the mansion she was nowhere to be found, so I used the 'Enemy Detection' skill to find the survivors and cornered them on this room.

Fir on the other hand, is outside trying to trace Iluna's smell, but he got no results so far.

"For a moment I thought you didn't know her whereabouts, so I'll ask again, make sure to remember this time, alright?" I put my sword on his neck and started pouring mana on it, the magic circuits instantly reacted.

So far I didn't get the chance to use the poison because the enemies were too weak, but it should be a good way of threatening them right now.

A purple liquid fell from my weapon and hit the floor, instantly melting it and making the pig tremble in fear, he looked like someone that just received an electric shock.

“If you can’t answer, I might feel saddened, and the blade might touch you... The blond girl, a vampire, seven or eight years old, about this high.” I used my hand to show her height.

The pig didn’t give the answer I wanted though. “...I don’t know!”

“...Ah?”

“N-no! I really don’t know, I swear! When I noticed it, she was already gone!”

“...Where to?”

I pulled my sword away from him a bit, and the pig told me the whole thing.



Apparently Iluna successfully escaped on her own, they didn’t expect it because there was an expensive magical tool imprisoning her and there was also a guard, but by the time he realized it, she was long gone.

Since Iluna had a buyer already decided and would be sold for a high price, they tried to search for her in a hurry, but there was no time to find her due to the dragons’ attack.

I would like to hear the exact story from the people involved, but the guards assigned to Iluna are already corpses, so this isn’t possible.

Thinking about it though, Iluna had ran by herself when I first found her. She is a really smart child, but I wonder how she actually escaped... Well, it’s fine for as long as Iluna is safe.

“Boss! The reinforcements arrived!!” A man arrived at the room shouting.

“Well done! Hahaha, idiots! I was just buying time to-“ An ally of the pig appeared, but his words were cut short...

Because Fir blew the new guy away as he entered the room, “Fir, Iluna doesn’t seem to be here.” the one that was hit had his head stuck on the wall, his blood coloring it.

“The-there are still the reinforcements!” Their boss muttered.

“Could you be referring to those guys that spread their organs over there?” It seems Fir got rid of them on the way here, there were some corpses I didn’t remember on the corridor.

“Da... Da-damn iiiiiiiiiiiiiiiit!!” The pig seemed to realize there was no hope, so he rolled away and picked a sword from a nearby corpse.

“Pathetic... Exercise more, pig.” I avoided his attack and made a small cut on the pig’s shoulder.

“Ahhh...? Awaaaaaaaaa!” The pig started writhing and shouting as the poison started to erode his body, sweat dropped from the pig’s agonized and ugly face while he desperately pleaded for help.

“You look somewhat sick, I have some important matters to attend to though, so please take care of it yourself.” With these words I left the room, as the pig’s body gradually changed color.



Outside the mansion, there were many people waiting in a semicircular shape, they pointed their weapons at me, but their entire body was trembling.

...I suppose it can’t be helped with all the ruckus I caused, but I didn’t want to get the attention of the guards. They seem experienced, their equipment is of high quality and they seem properly organized, differently from those idiots from earlier... This is such a bother.

I took a deep breath and released my voice as loud as I could. “Ilunaaaaa!!”

And a voice came in reply. “Big bro!!” It came from closer than I expected.

I turned my face towards its direction and noticed a spell being dispelled, and from within that spell, she appeared and ran towards me.

“Iluna!!” I gave her a big hug as we got back together. “...You did your best, your brother

is proud of you.”

“Uhm! I did my best! I did my very best!”

I stroked Iluna’s head gently while we hugged, however, she raised her head and showed me a tearful expression. “Many others aside from me were caught... Please help them big bro!”

“Alright, I’ll do something about it, so could you please go back with Fir for now?”

Iluna gave a very cheerful smile and nodded. “Okay, thank you very much! I’ll be waiting with Fir!”

“Leave it to me!

Fir, go ahead and leave town, I’ll follow you soon.” Fir seemed anxious, but nodded, put Iluna on his back, and ran.

“Th-the wolf escaped!” One soldier shouted.

“Alright, fire at will!” Another exclaimed.

For a moment they got distracted by Fir, but they immediately turned their attention back to me.

“...I’ll kill all of you!!” Forgetting I was once a human, I let out a huge roar. My mana started overflowing and the surroundings got impacted by it, breaking the glasses of the surrounding buildings.

The violent crushing sound, added to the wave of magical power, made many of the group nearby faint.

I was angry.

On Iluna’s cheek... There was a mark of a hit.

What a joke.

To think they dared hitting such a young child... My anger dyed my sight red and it

filled my whole body.

I clenched my teeth and grasped my sword with enough strength to deform its handle.



イルーナの頬にあった——殴られた痕。

——ふざけやがって。

……
滅んじまえばいいこんな**種族**。

At that moment...

“Calm down, Yuki.” A warm feeling wrapped itself around my back, I could feel it slowly melting the anger that was swirling inside me.

“...Lefy.” Before I could noticed her, she approached me and wrapped her arms around my back, then put her head on my shoulder. A sense of security came from Lefy’s presence.

“Calm down, you already accomplished your purpose and got back on whoever hurt Iluna. We have no reason to remain here.” I couldn’t reply to her words...”Besides, I’m hungry, instead of spending effort in dealing with those guys, wouldn’t it be much better to cook something for someone as great as me?”

She said this with a very relaxed voice and I felt there was a faint smile on her face... I took a deep breath and smiled as well. “Alright, let’s go home, I’ll give you something to eat.”

“You better make something great, my expectations are very high and I won’t forgive a mediocre meal.”

“Idiot, if I give you my special recipe, you won’t be able to enjoy any other sweet for a few days.”

“What!?”

...In that case I don’t mind if you restrain yourself a bit.” As Lefy switched back to our usual banter, so did I move along with her flow, before I noticed, my mood was back to normal.

“...I’m sorry to interrupt, but could you be a demon?” Slowly, a man that did not lose consciousness approached us to talk. He seemed to be barely standing though, probably because of the impact of the mana wave.

“...What is it old man?” I replied.

“I-I am Raylor Lu-Luvia, the lord of this town. If I may make an assumption, I presume you came here to take one of your relatives back?”

“Yes my sister was kidnapped, so I came to pick her up.” I confirmed.

“I am truly sorry for that. As an apology, could you come with me to the Lord’s Manor?”

...Why is this man bothering with inviting me when he noticed I’m a demon and hostile to mankind?

Also, he is looking at Lefy with a face that indicates pure terror... Could he be...? I activated my analysis to be sure.

...As expected. He is a person with the analysis skill, in other words, he knows Lefy is the Supreme Dragon.

Lefy said that she was a legendary being in the human world... Judging from his reaction, it seems to be true.

I guess I suddenly don’t look that much like a big shot anymore when compared to her.

“What do you want to do, Yuki?” Lefy asked.

“Let’s go with him, there is something I need to do.” After all, Iluna requested something of me.

Chapter 28

Conclusion (2)

"I am really sorry about this occurrence, please let me apologize for it."

We were in a mansion right now, it was frugal, but didn't have the bad taste the previous one had. Me and Lefy were sitting on a sofa, while the lord of this city, Raylor, sat in front of us.

He seemed very tired, the mansion guards kept on trying to point their weapons against us, so he had to stop them time and time again... I sympathized with him.

"You are Raylor, right? Do you know who I am?" Lefy started the conversation with a very cold tone.

"O-of course, I'm very aware of it." Raylor was clearly tense, even though he tried hiding it.

"Since you're the lord of this place, I assume you know of the agreement your kind made with me."

"Agreement?" He tried asking.

"I did not give you the right to speak. Back when the world was in turmoil, lots of fools thought they had the right to try attacking me. I got tired of them so I decided to just get rid of humanity, your king back then hurriedly bowed down and promised to not allow anyone to interfere with me anymore, while I kindly agreed to not wipe them out because of it."

I-I see, that's diplomacy through pressure.

"However, you worms kidnapped a part of my family, a daughter for me even. This bunch of trash broke their promise with a being as great as me... Tell me trash, how will you compensate me?"

“B-but this all came too suddenly.”

“Why should I of all people care for humanity’s circumstances?”

“I... I understand.” He was looking absolutely pale while dripping cold sweat, I felt sorry for him being this intimidated by someone that looked like a middle schooler.

“Well, there isn’t anything I particularly want, but this man might have some demands, so make sure to follow them.” Lefy said that and winked towards me... Did she do all that to make completing Iluna’s request easier?

“Wha-what’s wrong with you today Lefy? You seem unusually competent.”

“What’s up with this tone!? I’m the Supreme Dragon, the Supreme Dragon I tell you! Show some respect!

...That said, the conversation isn’t over yet, so please take this a bit more seriously, Yuki.”

“Got it.” I replied.

The lord seemed completely dumbfounded at our exchange.

“In any case, this man will be the one to wrap this up.” She turned towards me. “Your turn now, Yuki.”

“Uhn... Well...” I killed who I needed, and even needed to be stopped by Lefy when I was taken over by my anger. This is easy in comparison, I took a deep breath and then made sure to look as intimidating as I could before exhaling.

“First of all, as Lefy said, your matters do not concern us, so do not interfere with us again. Otherwise... I’ll be sure to kill.” For I absolutely won’t let anyone ever harm Iluna again.

“U-understood, we will no longer step into the Haunted Forest.” Haunted Forest? Is this the name of the place we live in? To think it had such a name...

“Also, hand over all slaves of the city, not only those on that house I destroyed, but all of them. And if you don’t...” I pointed up to remind him of the dragons right above the

city.

“...Will that be alright?” Really? He doesn’t seem even a bit reluctant.

“Are you okay with it then?” I prodded.

“Understood, we’ll make the necessary arrangements immediately, will you need a carriage?”

“Uhn... Lefy, can we put them atop the dragons?”

“As long as there are no more than 300.” She answered.

“Then... A carriage will be okay, bring them here.” I hope there won’t be 300, I will be in trouble if there are this many.

“Understood, please wait over there while we rescue them. Come with me Aruto!” The city’s lord bowed to us and left the room with the person he called.

To think we made so much preparation... The ending of our assault ended up being somewhat anticlimactic.



“...They’re gone.” Raylor mentioned as he saw the dragons flying away from the city, taking a deep breath, he leaned back on the chair and sat down in relief.

It was horrible. As soon as I saw the dragons coming, I worried about the possibility of the Supreme Dragon being involved... To think I was right on mark.

It was unexpected for her too look like such a pretty girl, but the power she had was definitely the real deal.

Raylor was originally a soldier, he gained prestige in the battlefield and gained his title of lord as a reward. In war, anyone that can’t analyze the skill of the opponent doesn’t live long, so Raylor learned the skill quickly.

And with it, I understood the difference between them. ‘Analysis’ was only able to show how big was the difference between me and her, my whole body trembled more

than at any moment it ever did in battle... If I had slacked for even a second, there is no doubt I would have fainted.

And the man next to her, with hair as black as darkness itself, an eye just as dark, and the other as vivid as blood. The rest of his appearance wasn't very remarkable, but it was enough to leave a strong impression.

He may not be a dragon, but his presence was certainly threatening, "...A demon Lord?" perhaps a new dungeon was born on the Haunted Forest.

And his attitude towards the Supreme Dragon... He was also followed by another legendary monster, a Fenrir. Even if the Supreme Dragon wasn't here, this city would definitely take considerable danger.

My whole body was shaking... It was fortunate that both parties were calm, because when he got angry, the city might have been destroyed if not for the Supreme Dragon's intervention.

Somehow though, we were able to have a civilized discussion.

"To think of the trouble that pig caused..." I still remember the face of the man that caused all this, it's a good thing he and his business were completely destroyed.

Slave trade and illegal trade of other goods, all while being highly protected by the nobility, which made them completely immune to law, forcing me to look away from their actions.

Considering that the pig was gotten rid of, and no damage was caused to the city, this event might have actually been a good thing.

Thinking of these things, Raylor leaked a bitter smile, because things might be good now... But the problem is what comes after.

Recently, a country has been disregarding the threat of the Supreme Dragon and started sending forces through the Haunted Forest.

For now, I'll need to send my own troops against them, because doing nothing is the same as putting my foot on the grave.

No matter what, I have to stop them. Because the Supreme Dragon is no longer the only threat on that Forest.

Chapter 29

Returning Home

“Well, what do we do with these children now?” I pondered.

We just came back to the dungeon, I was a bit afraid of leaving it unattended, so I blocked the entrance with a huge rock, this was already put back on the item box though.

Around twenty ex-slave girls are next to me, they’re all trembling while looking left and right, wondering why were they brought here.

Iluna isn’t around because she was too tired by this whole ordeal, so she went to sleep with Shii, who was very happy to have Iluna back.

“Did you actually think on what to do now?” Lefy asked me.

“Not at all, I don’t have a clue.” I answered.

“...I was hoping you didn’t plan as little as it looked like.” Lefy sighed, I could see where she was coming from though.

“Well... Do you... Do you all have a home to return to?” I asked the girls.

They seemed somewhat frightened, but started murmuring with one another after I asked, before long, a girl with sheep horns answered.

“We-we do, great Demon Lord. Most of us were captured and brought away from our families, so a place should exist for as long as they didn’t move away.”

“Alright, understood. I’m surprised you know I’m a Demon Lord though.”

“I-I could notice because of the quality of your magical power.” So she can judge it because of something like that? Impressive.

“Well, this is interesting, but I think we have other things to worry about right now... Lefy, can the dragons take them?”

“No problem.” She answered and called a dragon near with a single wave of her finger... I wonder how did she train them to be this obedient.

“A while back I just taught them who is in command.” She said as if she read my mind.

“Well, everyone, if you wish to go home, just tell the dragon and they’ll bring you back to it.” As I said this, hope suddenly spread through the eyes of the ex-slave girls.

Those girls were the only slaves we could find because the country of that city we visited is in war, so all adult women and all male slaves were forced to go battle.

Also, it seemed slavery was actually illegal, so their capture and sale was all done by organizations like that pig’s, which led to only having around 20 girls in a city of that size.

That’s why the request of freeing all slaves was accepted so easily, I felt a bit weird for having no trouble in granting Iluna’s rare selfish request, but let’s just be happy about it.

“I-is it really alright?” One of the girls asked.

“Of course, there is no problem, please go back to your homes and find your loved ones. Just do tell me if you have no place to stay, alright?” I’ll be troubled if too many needed to remain here, but one or another should be alright.

They looked between themselves for a while before turning towards me and bowing. “We are of different races and our circumstances are different, but our feelings are the same. Thank you for your mercy, Demon Lord.”



“So, only you two remained?” I turned my head to the two girls that were still here, as the rest was already carried away by the dragons.

“My upbringing has always told me to return the kindness I received, so I would like to serve you if possible.” The girl that said it had sheep horns and grey hair that went

as far as her waist, her body seemed to be in good shape... Rather, some parts of her body weren't properly covered due to the clothing she was using, so I didn't know where to look. This girl also seemed to give an older sister aura.

"G-great Demon Lord, a-about the lord Lord Fenrir?" The other girl had dog ears and a tail, her hair was short and of brown color. Her figure was closer to that of Iluna and Lefy, so it's easier to look at... In any case, they certainly chose only beautiful girls to capture as slaves.

"Aah, yes, what is it?" I answered.

"The-then, If it's not too much of a bother, cou-could I also help with his chores or something!?"

"Eh? Oh, it's okay, but... Is there any matter with him?" I answered while caressing Fir's fur.

"Ah, you see, Lord Fenrir is a god for werewolves! To serve the god that freed us and defeated our captives would be something anyone would wish for!"

"I see..." I'm getting a bit worried, it seems another person with a strong personality arrived. "Seems like you're a god now Fir."

Fir made a small noise while putting a bitter smile on his face... Well, it's an understandable reaction.

"Ah, right, I'm Yuki, she's Lefy and he is Mofir. I'll introduce the ones inside later, but what are your names?" I asked them.

"My name is Leila, what can I do for you?" The sheep girl, Leila, said while calmly bowing her head... I'd prefer if she raised it soon though, I'm seeing something I shouldn't.

"I'm the werewolf Lyuuin-Gilou, please call me Lyu!" The dog-eared girl, Lyu, gives a feeling similar to a baseball club manager trying to cheer her team.

"Well, we can talk more later, I'm sure you're all tired, so let's go inside." I told them.

"Uhn... You are... Inside this cave...?" One of them asked.

“I understand what you mean, but the inside is better than what it looks, so go ahead.” The two seemed still worried, but went inside, Lefy was about to come in too, but I stopped her. “Ah, Lefy...” I started

“What is it?” She answered while looking me up and down.

“I just... Wanted to thank you, you saved me today.” I continued.

She staggered for a moment before opening up in a teasing smile. “Is this about the time you were rampaging so I had to hold you down like a baby?”

“Agh... Thinking about it, please forget this ever happened.” I told her with a bitter expression, but she just laughed.

“You know, Yuki.” She suddenly stopped giggling. “I have been alone for quite some time, this world was dull, everything was pointless.” I didn’t know what to reply.

Lefy is the Supreme Dragon, she has been living for who knows how long... Her memories must be filled with an overwhelming loneliness.

“Recently though, I met a certain man that filled my world with pleasant colors, each day is fresh, funny, lovely... So please, Yuki. Paint my world with even more lovely colors.” Lefy said this with a tone that seemed to imply it was a joke, but I...

“Ahh.” Could only reply with that, I just nodded.

Chapter 30

The Dungeon's Newcomers

"So, big bro... Who are these girls?" Iluna crossed her arms while pouting, "I'm mad!" she exclaimed while trying to put an intimidating aura, she just came out as cute instead though.

"We-well... You wanted them freed and they wanted to stay, so now they're here." But for some reason, I was forced to sit on my knees to reflect on my bad behavior, apparently.

"Big bro, I might have been very happy when you rescued me, but... I don't remember allowing you to have concubines!" She shouted.

"Eh? B-b-b-be-beg your pardon?" W-wait a bit! How did she get to this conclusion!? And you, newcomers, stop looking here with those pitying eyes and help!

"I didn't know big bro was such a playboy, sis Lefy is fine, but anyone else is no good!"

"Wa-wait Iluna, you're misunderstanding a lot!" I tried retorting.

"I'm not misunderstanding anything! Sis told me what maids are!" The new girls are maids, and... This led to that?

"...Miss Lefy, just what are you implying?" Leila asked.

"Isn't that what a maid is?" Lefy replied, to think the misunderstanding started with her...

"It's not! That's prejudice that comes from your own biased views of society." I retorted.

"It's okay master, I understand. My body is not very well developed, but I'll do my best to serve you for the sake of staying with lord Mofir!" Lyuuin embarrassedly commented while fidgeting.



“Hey, did you even hear what I just said? Your reaction doesn’t fit what I spoke!” I retorted.

Meanwhile, Leila just looked at us with a wide grin on her face... I left a long sigh out of my mouth.



“In any case, as I said earlier, I want you both to work as maids because all the housework was falling on me before, which was pretty tough.” After somehow appeasing Iluna and correcting the misunderstanding, I explained that they were not concubines, but workers of our Dungeon Corporation.

Our employees until this point were one Demon Lord, one Supreme Dragon, a little girl and two pets. Our job is to kill monsters, expand the dungeon, fool around and play together.

We don’t usually kill monsters much though, the DP income from keeping them alive is bigger in the long run, it’s just an emergency measure in case I urgently need DP. The dungeon has also already expanded considerably.

Our methods of killing time also increased recently, both Lefy and Iluna have already memorized the rules of the board games and are spending quite some time playing them. The newcomers will probably be able to participate soon enough too.

Also, Leila and Lyu are no longer using the slave outfits, they’re wearing proper classic, formal and frilly maid attire, which is something I bought on the DP catalogue. It truly has a lot of things.

While I explained various things about the dungeon, Leila suddenly tilted her head and asked. “Should I be your night partner?”

“Unnecessary.” Give me a break, we have children here. And I’m a man, your body would tempt me.

I coughed to pull the attention back to the topic at hand. “There are other details that need explaining, but I’ll talk about them as the opportunity arrives. You two will stay in the same double room as yesterday, are there any questions?”

We expanded the amount of rooms in the dungeon yesterday, I have been sleeping on the same room as Lefy and Iluna so far, but it would get too cramped with two more, and we could also have problems if two new girls got in the same room as me.

Lefy and Iluna didn't say they needed some extra space for them, so no further alterations were made, I'm planning on making a big alteration on the dungeon's design on the near future though, as I also want a room solely for myself... Any man would.

"Master, what is this?" Lyu asked.

"It's a writing tool, if you press the top, a black thing will appear at the bottom and you'll be able to write with it." I answered.

"Wow... Such a convenient magic tool." She said in amazement.

Well, it's just an item from Earth.

"What about this my lord?" Leila also asked.

"It's just a toy, as for how to use that... This is Lefy's favorite one, so she can teach you once she wakes up, probably." I replied while glancing sideways, Lefy was there, wrapped in a cushion and sleeping heavily, right after eating a meal... She recently worked hard though, so let's leave her be.

"On another matter, what is the difference between a demon and a Demon Lord?" I decided to ask Leila.

After a moment of thought, she replied, "Ah, right... Humans sometimes refer to Demon Lords as the kings of the demons, we though, think of the Demon Lord as the owner of a labyrinth, one that had their existence molded by it." What is a labyrinth though...? The dungeon?

"You mean it's not a fixed race?" I prodded.

"Indeed, that's what I meant. For example, if a goblin were to become the ruler of a labyrinth, they would no longer be just a goblin and would ascend to a higher race with its power, it would be a goblin based Demon Lord." She continued.

I see, so me being an Archdemon is probably also because of my class of Demon Lord,

my power also comes from being the owner of the dungeon.

“Leila is very knowledgeable, thank you, I’m glad to hear about it.” I replied gratefully, my knowledge of this world is too biased right now, so it’s important to hear other points of view.

“Oh, n-no, that is... I’m glad I could be of service.” Leila seemed flustered for some reason.

“Well, things are good for now, welcome aboard you two, and please feel free to ask me anything you might need.” And like this, two new employees joined our Dungeon Corporation.

Chapter 31

Remodeling the Dungeon (Part 1)

I will give the dungeon a makeover today, there were only intruders here at first, but more people are becoming residents, so it's about time for a change in appearance.

That said, I have no intention of making it like an RPG's dungeon that has many floors going underground, my ultimate goal is to make it look like fitting residence for a final boss, a Demon Lord's castle.

Something similar to Anor Londo would be nice. I don't want to make it that wide though, it's just important to have dreams.

This reform will be the first step towards that goal, so I opened my status to check how much DP I had... Which made me realize something. I got another strange title.

Name: Yuki

Race: Archdemon

Class: Demon Lord

Level: 35

HP: 2540/2540

MP: 7211/7211

Strength: 716

Endurance: 747

Agility: 658

Magical power: 996

Dexterity: 1313

Luck: 72

Skill points: 6

Unique skills: Mana Eye, Language Translation, Flight

Skills: Item Box, Analysis Lv 8, Martial Arts Lv 4, Beginner Magic Lv 4, Spy Lv 5, Enemy Detection Lv 4, Swordsmanship Lv 1, Weapon Creation Lv 3, Bestow Enchantment Lv 2

Titles: Demon Lord of a Parallel World, Owner of the Supreme Dragon, He who Executes Judgment

DP: 152400

He who Executes Judgment: A person that hates and judges the sinful, when faced with an enemy that has a sinful title, all stats will be multiplied by 1.5.

Well, it's useful at the very least... I wonder what is the criteria used to receive titles though.

"Hey Lefy, how do people get titles?" I asked.

She was doing a special training after being crushed in Old Maid by Lyuuin, even though the latter just learned the rules... I don't think it's a game you can practice by yourself though.

"A title? I don't know, anyone can get those and they come for the most varied reasons. Some say it's the work of God, but I have no way of verifying it." She replied with a way deeper answer than I expected.

"Doesn't God exist?" I asked.

"You mean the religious figure? Not that I have seen." She calmly replied.

I thought that God would definitely exist in a different world, but... If even Lefy didn't see him, then if there is one, it is probably invisible just like in my former life.

"I see... By the way, is Supreme Dragon your only title?" I changed topics a bit.

"No, I just hide all the others. This title quickly shows my position and conveys who I am, it's easier to handle things if people can quickly see it." She answered.

I see... Lefy can shake off any annoying mobs by just showing this title after all.

Since there is a skill to see someone's status, there should also be one to make it invisible to others, I'll search for it on the skill list later.

I had also wondered how Iluna escaped back when she was kidnapped, but it must be because of a hidden skill too. I'm curious as to why she didn't tell us about it, but there must be a good reason to keep it as a secret, so I won't pry on that.

"Why do you look so disappointed?" Lefy interrupted my thoughts.

"Oh, it's just... I made it a personal goal to see all of your status, but this won't be

possible if there are hidden titles." I told her.

"Is that so? In that case keep training and improving your skills, you should be able to see it by the time you're on my level." She said while giggling.

"Reaching your level... That would take hundreds of years, I will die long before that."

"What are you talking about? I don't think you have a lifespan?" She replied puzzled.

"...What?" I could only squeeze this out with a stupefied voice.

"Well, there might be one, but it should be one or two thousand years at least. You're a naturally born demon whose body is made of mana after all." She continued with a casual tone.

"Eh? Oh, oh, I heard that before..." Now that she mentioned it, I was born out of the Dungeon core that made me a Dungeon's Master.

"Being made of mana leads to a very long life, you can obtain your sustenance just by breathing and even if a part of your body is destroyed, you should be able to regenerate it with time. For as long as there is magic in this world, you should be able to live for as long as nobody kills you... You don't even need to eat, do you?" She concluded.

I certainly never felt very hungry since I got this body... Wait, does this mean Fir and Shii are also the same? Seriously?

That was a big surprise, I didn't expect to be nigh immortal.

"In that case... What about you? You seem to have been alive for quite some time." I asked Lefy while still trying to wrap my head around this shocking fact.

"Me? Dragons are long lived by nature, and I am pretty strong and also pretty good at magic, so it's unlikely I'll die for as long as mana exists." She answered.

"I see... You certainly lived a lot and surely had a lot of spare time... Lefy? Is everything okay? Why did you suddenly turn red?" I asked confused.

"I-it's nothing! J-just what's up with this title of 'Owner of the Supreme Dragon!'" She shouted.

“Oh, you only noticed now?” I started smiling.

“O-owner!? You have some nerve to treat me as a pet!” Well, her reaction was the expected one.

“Don’t worry, it’s just a title, we can’t really control that. This is just how things look like from an objective perspective.” I said while grinning.

She seemed to be groaning from anger, so I poked her a bit more. “Well, if you understand how it is, why don’t you praise me for being a good owner?”

“Grrrrr, watch your tone Yuki! Duel me now you bastard!” She shouted.

“As you wish! If I win you’ll crawl and lick my leg like a dog then!” I said while laughing.

“Y-you... You have that kind of hobby?” She retorted calmly.

“W-why did you regain your composure so quickly!?” At that moment, I instinctively backed away from Lefy.

Chapter 32

Remodeling the Dungeon (Part 2)

Once I had beaten Lefy at cards, perhaps to a childishly thorough degree and put the angry girl to bed, I was able to leave the throne room and go out to the caves for my true purpose. The remodeling of the dungeon.

What I wanted to implement now was the addition of a new floor.

“Now, what kind of...”

I slid my finger in the air and continued with the controls.

The floor I was going to add on this occasion was a grassy plain.

Yes, with the mysterious power of the dungeon, I was able to add such new areas.

As a concept, I was thinking of having the base field as the grassy plain and have several types of options added to it.

I paid a not quite cheap amount of DP and added the grass-covered area between the caves and the Throne Room for a start.

“Ohh... It really is a grassy plain.”

You would be met by this field of grass as you exited the caves.

It was no winter country for sure.

There was a lone door installed in the caves.

Actually, it had been there before, but now once the doorknob was turned and the door was opened, you would be greeted by the sight of grass spreading out before you.

In spite of being inside of a cave, the great sky stretched as high as you could see, and the sunlight shone on the fresh, green grass.

A gentle wind would occasionally blow, making the grass sway and caress my cheeks.

And in the midst of the softness of nature, stood something far off in the distance. Was it the door connecting to the Throne Room?

I don't know what to say... I should be used to it by now, but this really is a mysterious power. It was fascinating.

I made my way towards the door. It had such a strong presence as it was the sole structure in this level field of grass. I checked to see what was inside, and it led to the Throne Room just like I had thought.

As Iluna and the other newcomers looked at me oddly, I once again turned around and went back out into the grassy field. This time I went around to the back of the door, but there was nothing there besides the same door.

...I was kind of moving like a chimpanzee who was looking at a mirror for the first time, and that was exactly how I was feeling.

I wonder how far this continues. It's like an entire world was just created here.

Thinking about this, I took some time to just walk and hop around and finally discovered that there was indeed a proper boundary. There was an invisible wall like the ones in video games that prevented you from going out any further.

Size-wise, it had a radius of about 5 kilometers with the door to the Throne Room being in the center. The sky went up for perhaps a full kilometer. I had hit my head when flying in the air, and while it wasn't painful it was definitely a surprise.

I'm happy, it was bigger than I had thought. However, it was apparently possible to expand the area even further, so I decided that I would widen it if I ever started to feel like it was too small.

The next thing I did was to access the option settings.

Ultimately, a flat open field of grass looked quite lonely... I could add rivers, mountains in the back... Oh, I'd want a bridge for the river as well. I also would like a cherry tree too. I really like cherry blossoms.

...Seeing this scenery is starting to make me want a Japanese-style building...

Ah, maybe a ryokan. I'll add that. Wait, wait, I would want a hot spring too then. It's been confirmed to exist here. Given the choice, I'll have an outdoors one. I also want a pond in the yard. I'm still not sure if they should be called monsters, but there were koi fish in the monster list, so I'm going to add some of those as well.



A single inn stands by the riverside.

The interior had an old, modest appearance that created a nostalgic atmosphere. And from the veranda, you could view the lake and a single, beautiful cherry tree that filled your heart with a sense of calmness.

The fields of grass stretched out as far as you could see, and the gallant mountain ranges could be seen in the far off distance.

"...Well, it's not too bad. Yeah."

I sighed, and as soon as I returned to myself, there was an impressive, picturesque hot spring house that could have been from any luxury hotel completed right next to me.

Everything looked a lot more atmospherically cozy than I had originally intended... But, it's alright. I meant to build a separate Demon Lord castle later on anyway. For now, this more modest place would do.

That's right, I am the Creative Demon Lord. I only built this so everyone could have a more relaxing place to rest. This has absolutely nothing to do with being arrogant and adding too many things or wasting DP, that is not the truth at all. This is all according to plan.

Yes, this inn is the first step of my new journey as Demon Lord, it is an important foothold towards my ambitions. Hahahahahah!!

I had no idea what I was talking about.

"Master, lunch is ready! Uh, ohhaa!? Wh-, where is this!? It's supposed to be a cave... Also, since when was that house built!?"

So said Lyuuin as she came to call me after finishing preparations for lunch. Her face

peered from behind the door to the Throne Room.

By the way, that door was right next to the ryokan. Because I had the foresight to build it in this location.

You would think that adding this kind of floor would make it difficult to leave the caves, but that was not really the case.

What I noticed after trying different things was that, like the doorknob in Howl's Moving Castle that changes the outside scenery every time it is turned, the Throne Room's doorknob could now do the same thing. You just needed to hold the doorknob and change the setting and then you could connect to a door that leads out of the cave directly from the Throne Room.

However, only persons concerned with the dungeon could use this feature. So if Lefy, who was still considered an invader, or the two newcomers wanted to leave, they would need me or Iluna to turn the doorknob or it would not connect to the outside. It was a little annoying, but it could not be helped.

"Hey, Lyu. lunch huh? I'll go right away."

Until now, the cooking had been my job. So I was incredibly grateful.

Now Leila was cooking all of the meals by herself, and because she was very skilled with her hands, she was quickly able to learn how to make dishes from my past life. It made me start to ponder on how girls were really good at this kind of thing.

Lyu was... Hmm, well, she was trying her hardest with the work, and that was fine in a way.

"Uh, um... Master, are you not going to give an explanation for all of this!?"

"Eh? Ahh, that's... that thing. The mysterious power of Demon Lords, you know."

"I'm sorry, master. I do not understand at all."

Of course, you don't.

"Well, to be honest, I don't understand it myself, why am capable of these things. I can do it because I can. That's all that I can say. But more importantly, Lyu, are you getting

used to being here?”

I really wasn't able to explain anything myself, so I quickly changed the subject.

“Ah, yes. Well... I feel kind of strange. I thought that my life was so completely finished for good when I became a slave, but now, I am being allowed to work here like this.”

“Haha, well, life is full of strange happenings.”

Hell, I came to another world.

“But I am glad that I was able to come here. The food is good, the beds are clean and there are a lot of interesting things to do. And more than anything, Mofir is here too!! Oh, speaking of which, when is Mofir returning, master!?”

“Eh, uhhhh... I don't actually knooooow. That one can be quite elusive after aaaaall.”

“Master? Why are you talking so monotone all of a sudden?”

Fir seemed to have decided that he would not do well with Lyu. I don't think he would get close to her unless I called him.

“Hey! Master, hurry up and come! The food will get cold and... There's grass here!? What is... Hey, Yuki, did you do something weird again?”

“Weird? How rude. This is one great step for the prosperity of my dungeon.”

“Well, whatever then. Anyway, you two need to come back quick. Or I'll just eat everything without you.”

““Heey.””

We replied without much enthusiasm and returned to the Throne Room after Lefy.

[Arc 3: Relaxation]

Chapter 33

A Hot Spring's Warmth

traitorAIZEN: I'll be using CardboardTL's translations from here on.

"Whew..."

I couldn't help but let out a relaxed sigh as my body sank into the bathtub. I'd recently finished making myself a ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn equipped with a hot spring.

The bathtub that the hot spring fed into was made of high quality Japanese cypress. It was quite wide, and could fit at least two people regardless of how they stretched themselves. It was an open air bath without a roof, so you'd be able to see the moon and stars shine down from above so long as you just looked up. The only artificial source of light was a dim lamp, so the dazzling, starry sky was mirrored atop the water's surface.

At first, I wanted to make it so the inn would be accompanied by an eternal night, but soon realized that it would not only be disorienting, but also lead to potential inconvenience. That was why I ended up giving the dungeon floor a proper day-night cycle that mirrored whatever was outside.

"This sure feels nice, doesn't it?"

I spoke to Shii, who happened to be floating about in the water. For some odd reason, Shii seemed really fond of bathing; the slime had the tendency to hop in the bath and join me whenever I decided to use it. At first, I expected it to swell up as soon as it entered, but nothing like that ever happened. Instead, bathing caused Shii to gain a sort of sheen and lustre. It was almost like it would cycle all the dirty fluids outside its body and take in cleaner ones after getting in the water.

"Are you done yet, Onii-chan?"

Illuna slid open the bathroom's sliding door, and smiled happily as she entered.

“Oh, hey Illuna. I thought you said you weren’t going to get in ’till a bit later?”

“Hehe. Sorry.”

The young vampire giggled and broke into an innocent smile as she apologized.

“Hey Onii-chan, can you please wash my hair?”

“Sure. Grab a seat and I’ll be right on it.”

“Yay!”

She cheered as she sat herself down on a chair near the shower. I followed suit and pulled up a second chair, settling myself down behind her as I grabbed the showerhead.

“Ehehe.”

“Sounds like someone’s in a good mood.”

“Yup!” Illuna nodded happily. “It’s because we’re spending time together again, Onii-chan!”

Now that she mentions it, I’ve been too busy to pamper her lately. I should probably take her out to play in the fields sometime soon. Oh, I know! We could have a picnic. I guess we’d have to invite everyone else, but that could make for a whole day’s worth of entertainment.

The bathroom door opened as I started excitedly fleshing out my picnic plans.

“Hello Illuna, I was not expecting to see you here.”

“Hi Onee-chan!”

“Oh, it’s just you, Lefi... Wait! Why the hell are you here!?”

“Better question. Why are you staring at me in such a manner? You look like a fool.”

“B-Because I don’t know why you’re joining us in the bath.”

“What, can I not?” Lefi frowned.

“W-well, I mean you can... It’s just...”

I didn’t mind Illuna joining me because she was still just a kid. Lefi, however, made for a much more questionable bath buddy. Her body was on the verge of maturity, just at the point where I wasn’t sure whether or not I was supposed to think of her as a kid.

“Oh, I know!” Illuna said. “You must’ve wanted to be together with Onii-chan too! Right, Onee-chan?”

“D-Definitely not! I-I simply wanted him to wash my hair because he’s is proficient at it!” Lefi’s cheeks reddened as she denied Illuna’s assumption.

“I-I see... A-Alright, why don’t you go ahead and get in the tub so I can get Lefi cleaned up, Illuna?”

“Kaaay~!”

Illuna, who I’d just finished washing, happily assented and entered the tub. She was soon replaced by Lefi, who naturally moved over and took the younger girl’s seat.

I couldn’t help but let my eyes be drawn to the creamy white skin that peeked out from between the strands of her glossy silver hair. I followed the contours of her body and traced her womanly figure all the way from the nape of her neck, through to her cute, rounded shoulders, and eventually all the way down to the slender curves that made up her back.

Oh god damn it, what am I doing!? Alright, alright. Empty mind, pure heart. Empty mind, pure heart.

I took a quiet but deep breath to calm myself down, all while hoping that Lefi wouldn’t notice my fast-beating heart. Only after I regained my composure did I finally start to wet her hair.

She would occasionally leak hot, captivating sighs as I washed her. Hearing them forced my heart to hit the gas and accelerate once more.

E-Empty mind, pure heart! Empty mind pure heart! Calm down already, heart! Why the hell are you beating so quickly? This is Lefi we’re talking about here, you know? She’s

just a lazy dragon that never does anything but eat sweets!

“A-alright Lefi, I’m done.”

I breathed a sigh of relief as I finished rinsing the bubbles out of her hair.

As soon as I was done, the ancient dragon relaxed herself and let her body lean back against my own. She was warm. Feeling the gentle sensation of her skin on mine caused my heart to once again kick itself into overdrive.

“W-What’re you do—”

“That was wonderfully relaxing, Yuki, but it appears the feeling is not mutual. Your breath is rather ragged. Was my naked body really that charming?”

She broke out into a mischievous grin as looked up at me from below.

She totally knew!?

“S-Sure does sound all high and mighty coming from someone whose body looks just like a kid’s. There’s no way you’d ever turn me on.”

“D-Did you just say I looked like a kid!? That is quite the claim, coming from the individual that just finished panting all over my body!”

“I-I was only panting because my nose was stuffed! It had nothing to do with you!”

“What manner of awful excuse is *that* supposed to be!?”

“Geez. Come on, Onii-chan, Onee-chan. You guys are going to catch colds if you don’t get in soon.”

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

Neither Lefi or I could come up with any sort of reply, so we both quietly ended up getting in after getting reprimanded.

“Ahhh... How splendid. I knew not that hot springs were this relaxing,” Lefi smiled.

“Yup! It feels super good, right Shii?”

Shii flopped around underwater as if to agree.

“Glad you guys are enjoying it.”



And so, the four of us leisurely relaxed and enjoyed ourselves. Quite a bit of time passed by without any of us saying anything, but I didn't find it the slightest bit awkward. In fact, I enjoyed the silence quite a bit.

I know I'm not old enough to have kids just yet, but I think I'm starting to understand how it feels to be a father.

"I admit that this makes for some good scenery, but remind me again why you suddenly decided to create this environment."

Lefi was the first to break the silence. Her curious gaze was set on the grassy plains that lay beyond the hotspring's confines.

"Well, I was kind of thinking about making myself a castle."

"What? I don't follow."

"You know, a castle? A giant ass fortress? I decided to make this plain so I could get some space ready for it."

"I... am not quite sold on your obsession with castles," said Lefi. "But very well. Let us work under the assumption that this is indeed all for the sake of a castle. What manner of thought prompted you to decide that the most natural building to construct next to a castle was an inn featuring a hot spring?"

"Dunno. I'd already finished building it by the time I even considered asking myself that."

"U-Uh huh..."

Lefi seemed to acknowledge and accept my reasoning, or rather, my lack thereof, despite clearly being confused.

A bit more time passed in silence, only to be interrupted by something suddenly beginning to shake.

"Illuna? You okay?" I asked.

"Yeah... Just sleepy."

All the warmth and comfort had caused the little girl to start drifting off.

“Try staying awake just a bit longer, ‘kay? Let’s get you to bed.”

“Mmkay...”

I took Illuna’s hand to steady her and stop her from shaking.

“Could you help Illuna get dressed, Lefi?”

“Very well.”

“Thanks. And as for you Shii, you can prob—Woah!”

I looked inside the water only to find that the slime had stretched and lost its usual shape. It was so large and stretched so thin that it looked like it was on the verge of dissolving.

“Are you alright?”

Shii shook itself up and down, indicating that it was perfectly fine. I somehow managed to understand that it was planning to soak a little bit longer, and could get out by itself once it was done.

“If you say so.”

I smiled wryly as I got out of the bath with Lefi and Illuna in tow. A ray of moonlight illuminated the area around us as the three of us made our way back over to the changeroom.

Chapter 34

Another Day in the Newcomers' Lives

“Man, that was tirin’. Lefi sure doesn’t like taking it easy on me, does she? Like, geez. Why’s she always gotta take everythin’ so seriously...?”

Lyyu, the maid, heaved a sigh as she collapsed onto her bed. She was tired. In fact, she was so so tired that she’d even forgotten to take off her uniform before attempting to sleep.

Yet, her exhaustion seemed to rapidly fade the moment she planted her face in the silky mattress beneath her. It was so soft and fluffy that it almost seemed to whisk her complaints away as it enveloped her in its gentle embrace. The beds in her newfound Master’s domain were simply divine. All the other beds she’d ever used were but shoddy wooden boards in comparison. Sleeping on them always left her joints aching in pain each and every single morning.

“Geez. Your uniform is going to end up plastered with wrinkles if you keep that up.”

“Right... Good point.”

The bed was so alluring that she couldn’t actually bring herself to get off of it and take off her clothes until after the other maid, Leila, reminded her. And even then, her actions carried with them a heavy air of reluctance.

There was very little beneath her uniform, so her body was laid bare the moment she took it off. She was on the more slender side, but that wasn’t to she say looked like a man or a child. Her figure was undoubtedly feminine; she had curves in all the right places.

Lyyu and Leila were on good terms with one another even though they belonged to different races. That, in part, was due to their heritages. Demons, beastkin, and demihumans got along with one another. But with that said, the disparate species’ willingness to cooperate with one another was unnatural, born of an external influence. The races lived in different environments and had different cultural customs. The only reason they were so willing to accept one another was because

humans discriminated against all of them equally. They treated them all like trash. Human nations were bigger and tended to be more powerful, so the races really had no choice but to get along, else risk being toppled by the humans mid-conflict.

The elves were the only race the humans couldn't carelessly antagonize. As denizens of the forest, they were capable making use of the "Forest's Secrets," which the humans knew could cause them incredible harm. To that end, elves and humans intentionally avoided getting in each others' ways; both parties practiced noninterference. All the other races were forced to face the humans' desire for conquest. That is, the humans and the other three non-elven races had been locked in a series of skirmishes and wars for hundreds upon hundreds of years.

At first, it had been a stalemate. But in recent years, the tides of war had started to turn.

In the humans' favour.

Individually speaking, humans were weak. One on one, humans were less fearsome in combat than all the other races, but they possessed a deadly trait that none of the other races could overcome: numbers. They overwhelmed the other races not through the quality of their warriors, but through sheer quantity of soldiers they deployed. All the other races almost always found themselves outnumbered ten to one on the battlefield.

And that was why the demons, beastkin, and demihumans treated each other with kindness. They realized that they needed to cooperate in order to cope with the looming human threat.

"Oh yeah, I guess I'm a bit late in askin', but why'd you decide to stay behind anyway?"

"I could have sworn that I already gave my reason. I believe I said I was here because I owe-"

"Yeah right."

Lyuu, who was in the middle of putting on the cute nightgown gifted to her by her master, cut Leila off while rolling her eyes.

"I know that's what you've been sayin', but I'm not askin' fer that. I wanna know how you really feel. I'm pretty sure you've got another reason hidden away somewhere,

seein' as how you're a horned sheep demon, y'know?"

Beastkin and demons were both races that contained a slew of different subraces within. Each subrace was further divided into clans. Both beastkin and demons had the tendency to append their clan names to their own names in order to differentiate between different groups within the same species.

Of course, Lyuu herself was no exception to the rules. The Gyroll in her name was actually her clan's name.

She knew that Leila was a demon, and thus should've had a second name to give. But in spite of that, she had named herself as Leila and nothing more. As far as Lyuu was concerned, her lack of a clan name was a dead giveaway to the fact that she was a horned sheep demon. There was a single horned sheep clan, so they had no need for an additional identifier.

Horned sheep demons were notorious for two very well known reasons. The first was that they were all female, and the second was that the entire clan was made up of overly curious academics, or scholars, as others would call them. These scholars were ridiculously inquisitive. They would find something to obsess over and get so into their research that they'd forgo both rest and nutrition just to learn the slightest bit more.

They were so famous amongst the demons that knowledge of their eccentricities had not only spread to the beastkin, but also integrated itself into their common sense.

Despite that, the maids' benefactor seemed not to know.

"Well, I was not lying, at the very least. I effectively gave up on life the moment I became a slave. Our Lord saved me from living the rest of my days as a miserable, broken tool, and I am truly grateful he did," said Leila, her lips curved into a slight smile. "But more importantly, do you not just find him interesting? Most Demon Lords are violent good for nothings that lack even the ability to process logical thought. Our Lord, on the other hand, is clearly an intellectual capable of reasoning. Do you not find this the perfect opportunity to discover the unknown? To learn more about labyrinths and maybe even the Demon Lord race as a whole? Would it not be a waste to throw away this wonderful chance? This outstanding opportunity?"

"U-Uh... Sure..."

Lyyu couldn't help but awkwardly nod along. She'd always thought of Leila as calm, composed, and seemingly carefree, so she couldn't help but be taken aback by the other maid's sudden, passionate outburst. Simply looking at her as she was now was enough to open the Warwolf's eyes to the fact that Leila truly was a member of the horned sheep clan.

"So have ya figured anythin' out yet?"

"Not quite. I have only uncovered three facts thus far. The first is that our Lord possesses an ability too mysterious for me to define quite yet. Secondly, he is quite the interesting person to observe due to the nature of his eccentricities. Finally, he adores both Lefi and Illuna, and would stop at nothing to ensure their safety."

"You know what...? I think you're right. Our master is kinda weird, isn't he?"

If Lyyu was to try to sum up her master in a single word, she would undoubtedly choose the word "mysterious."

Her master would always produce tools the likes of which she'd never heard of, let alone seen, and manipulate them with the skill of a seasoned craftsman. He was capable of casting the most devastatingly powerful spells like it was naught but child's play. And yet, he somehow lacked common sense. Many of the things he did not know were basic facts that even the youngest child could recite.

Still, he radiated warmth. His very presence put her heart at ease—even though she barely knew him.

And that was precisely why she thought the most accurate way to describe was to label as a mystery-filled anomaly.

Lyyu had to admit that she would have loved to work for him even if he hadn't been so warm and soothing. She didn't get yelled at here. And though she was technically a maid, she didn't feel nearly as restricted as a maid ought to be. The warwolf was more or less allowed to do whatever she pleased. She was often forced to play with people, but she always ended up enjoying it in the end, so she didn't particularly mind. Her only complaint, if she really had to name one, was that a certain immature individual wouldn't stop forcing her into rematches because said individual happened to hate losing.

Plus, that sole demerit was effectively rendered irrelevant in the face of the delicious

meals she found herself having on a day to day basis, the comfortable hot spring she could enter at her leisure, and the unworldly bed that awaited her each and every night. Lyuu honestly thought her work environment to be the best there was. She couldn't even begin to imagine anything trumping it, especially since there was a Fenrir around. The warwolf was a bit sad that she hadn't seen it too often as of late, but again, all the other benefits made it so she didn't particularly mind.

She was certain that her friends back home would've ended up grinding their teeth in envy should she tell them about her circumstances.

"I don't think Master'd really mind, y'know? You might as well come out and tell him."

"I do not disagree. However, I wish to observe both our Lord and his labyrinth in their most natural states. I believe it would be much less difficult for me to conduct unbiased observations without his consent than the alternative."

"Yeah, I guess you're right." Lyuu nodded. "He might get all conscious about it and act a bit different 'round you if he knows you're observin' him."

"Okay, that's enough about me. Why don't we talk about you?" asked Leila. "I remember hearing something about the Gyroll clan, which happens to lead the Warwolf subspecies as a whole. The poor chief's daughter ran away from home rather recently. I don't suppose that you wo—"

"Uwaaaahhh!?"

Lyuu started frantically flailing her arms around out of sheer panic as she cut the other girl off in an attempt to stop her from saying any more.

"H-How did you know!? W-wait, I mean, uhm..."

But she failed spectacularly and ended up confirming the other maid's suspicions of her own accord.

"Don't worry, I am not the type to talk. Though, I cannot guarantee that I will not make a minor mistake or two if you happen to tell anyone else my secret."

"I-I promise I won't tell anyone, so make sure you don't say nuthin' 'bout me either, 'kay!?"

Though Leila was perfectly satisfied, having achieved her goal, she couldn't help but question her fellow maid's motives.

"You seem rather keen on keeping your identity a secret, but... why? Are there any demerits to letting our Lord know?"

"I-I mean... ain't it just, you know, embarrassin'? I mean, I ain't exactly what people imagine when you think of 'a chief's daughter.'"

Leila gave a wry smile as she watched Lyuu fidget about in an attempt to hide her embarrassment.

"What are you talking about, Lyuu? You're plenty cute."

"R-Really? I-I dunno, I don't really think I am..."

"Yeah, now why don't we get to bed? I know we're not required to wake up early, but I think we should still do our best to get out of bed before our Lord."

Leila reached toward the lamp by her bedside and turned it off.

"Ugh... I feel like you just totally had me played, but 'kay. Night, Leila."

"Good night, Lyuu."

Chapter 35

Picnic

“Yay! It’s picnic time! We’re gonna have a picnic!”

Illuna spoke in a sing-songy tone as she happily skipped through the grassy field beneath her. She swung her arms about as she did, dragging both Lefi’s hand and my own all over the place.

The young vampire was beaming. Though, that wasn’t really saying much, seeing as how she was more or less always beaming. Her cheerful smile had long become one of her defining features. Today, however, she somehow managed to make said smile seem even more gleeful than usual. Seeing her like that reminded me of a certain school idol and the catchphrase she’d always say while smiling. What was it again? Nico Nico Nii? ^[1]

“I know you’re excited, Illuna, but it would be best for you to stop fidgeting. You’re sure to tucker yourself out if you don’t,” said Lefi.

“But we’re going on a picnic, Onee-chan! How can I not be excited? Doesn’t it just sound like so much fun!?”

“Right. What precisely was a picnic again? I recall little besides that I was suddenly awoken for it.”

Lefi squeezed her words out between a few tired-sounding yawns. Being as lazy as she was, she normally would have preferred to sleep in.

“Uhhmm, well, a picnic is... Uhhmm... it’s like when you...”

Illuna tilted her head to one side as she attempted to recall my explanation.

“I forgot,” she said with an innocent smile. “What was it again, Onii-chan?”

“Picnics are when you go outside with a bunch of people, eat stuff, and play around until you drop, all under a beautiful blue sky.”

Man, I know I'm rarely ever swamped with work, but it still does feel nice to just cut loose and just totally relax. I mean, I did put in a slight bit more effort lately, so this break is totally well deserved.

"What beautiful blue sky...?" Lefi rolled her eyes. "This backdrop is but a blatant forgery, isn't it?"

"Oh shut up Lefi," I groaned. "Look, you're right, but lay off. It doesn't really matter if the sky's real or not. It's all about the mood."

"Uhm, Master, I love playing around as much as the next gall, but there ain't really anything to do here. All I see is an empty field of grass. Though, I guess it does kinda look like a good place to take a nap," said Lyuu.

She was standing behind us so I couldn't actually see her, but I was certain that she'd been looking in an attempt to find whatever was supposed to entertain us for the rest of the outing.

Speaking of which, our group was structured as follows: Lefi and I were taking up the lead, with Illuna between us, holding both our hands. Leila was right behind the three of us, quietly following along as she maintained her ever-composed expression and held onto the basket that contained our lunches.

Behind Leila was Shii, sitting atop an unamused looking Rir. I hadn't seen Rir around too often lately and today served to prove exactly why that was the case. Lyuu was following him around and attempting to pamper him. She clearly thought she was doing him a service, but the fenrir couldn't seem to think of her actions as anything but annoying.

"Hmm, a nap? That does sound like a rather pleasant idea," Lefi yawned yet again as she scanned the field for a place to sleep.

"No napping," I said. "Look, I know you're probably thinking that there isn't anything to do, but there is. Just trust me. I've made some pretty sweet plans for us. Speaking of which, that's the spot I was looking for right over there."

I pointed towards a small hill. Like the rest of the field, it was covered with grass. Its only defining feature was the creek that lay beside it. I created the hill just several days prior, specifically so that we could use it for today's events. It felt as if I was no longer using the plains for the purpose I had originally intended them for, but I didn't

particularly mind.

Upon reaching our destination, I pulled a picnic blanket out from my item box and placed it on top of a patch of grass a bit away from the bottom of the hill.

“I presume this is where you plan for us to eat?” said Leila.

“Later, yeah. I’m just setting it up right now so we have a place to sit. Feel free to set everything down here too. It should be far enough out of the way not to get plowed over.”

I reached into my item box and pulled out a wooden sled as I spoke. It was one of the larger models and could clearly fit two adults without discomfort. The sled’s bottom was flat and had a bit of a glossy sheen to it, perhaps because it was laminated. It looked like it would have no problems going down the hill despite it being grassy.

“What’s that thing for, Onii-chan?”

“It’s a fun toy. Follow me, I’ll show you how to use it.”

I led Illuna atop the hill and sat her down in the sled. Rather than immediately getting on it myself, I stood behind it and positioned myself to push it.

“Are you ready?”

“Yup!”

“Then let’s go!”

I kicked off the ground and began pushing the sled downhill to give it an initial burst of speed then hopped in. The weight of my body suddenly falling onto the wooden vehicle gave it something along the lines of a second wind, accelerating it even further.

“Wow! We’re going so fast!”

Riding the sled gave me a bit of a rush, a thrill similar yet different from the one I got from flying. Flying was more demanding, but at the same time, it provided more control. Sledding was the opposite. All I had to do was lean back and let gravity do most of the work for me.

We rushed down the hill then slowly decelerated until we finally stopped right around where Lefi, Rir and the maids were gathered.

“You were right, Onii-chan! That really was super fun!”

“Told you so. You see, this is clearly why I’m the master of all things fun. If you’re ever bored, then come to me and I’ll fix everything right up.”

“Mhm! You’re totally awesome, Onii-chan!”

Though I was acting smug, I knew that I didn’t deserve any sort of title. All I was doing was borrowing existing ideas.

“Wow, Master. I hafta say, that looks really fun,” said Lyuu, her eyes sparkling.

“So you are using the hill itself as a toy? While the idea is fundamentally quite simple, it appears interesting nonetheless,” added Leila.

“You guys want to give it a shot?”

“You betcha!”

“I would love to, but is it really okay for me to join you in your leisures, my Lord?”

“Of course.”

And so, I went back up the hill with the two maids. Lyuu was really excited, so she ended up taking the front seat. Leila sat in the back while I stood behind them in order to give the sled the push it needed to get going.

“Uhhh... wow Leila. Your boobs sure are big...” muttered Lyuu, under her breath.

“Come again?” said Leila.

“You know what, it’s nuthin’. Just do me a good one and pretend ya didn’t hear it, ‘kay? I’d rather not start feelin’ even more sorry for myself.”

“Hm?”

The energy and excitement seemed to drain from Lyuu’s body as she came into contact

with Leila's bountiful bosom. Her face warped a bit, as if to show that she was dealing with all sorts of conflicting emotions. I almost started to feel sorry for her, but instead ended up stifling a laugh as I recalled a certain character stating proclaiming being flat chested was a status symbol. [2]

"Hey Master, why's it look like you're tryin' ta stop yourself from gigglin' or somethin'?"

"I don't know what you're talking about. Now let's go," I said, as I began pushing the sled.

"Hey wait, answer my question first! Wa-wait, I said waitttttt!"

I ignored her and began pushing the sled with all the power my body could muster. And as I was a Demon Lord, it went without saying that they ended up gaining quite a good bit of speed. That is, they went so fast I'd almost thought that the sled had rocket-powered boosters attached to it.

"Hoooooly crap, that was way faster than I thought it'd be... Y-You're really strong, Master... We accelerated so quickly that my thighs ended up jerkin' up and stuff..." Lyuu paused a bit after each sentence in order to take a deep breath.

"That was incredible. I presume that I should not have expected anything less from a Demon Lord, though," said Leila.

She was calm now, but even the ever-composed Leila had ended up leaking a shout of surprise when the sled first picked up speed. I was a bit curious about her expectations, but ended up shelving the thought for the time being. I instead glanced at the one person that had yet to experience sledding down Demon Lord Hill.

"Well Lefi, you're next."

"I-I would not mind yielding my turn to another."

"Oh come on, don't say that. Just try it. I'm sure you'll enjoy it."

Lefi seemed a bit reluctant to join in on the fun, so I bent down, stuck my head between her legs, grabbed them, and lifted her as I stood back up. In other words, I began giving her an over-the-shoulder piggyback ride.

"W-What are you doing!?"

“Being inclusive. I’d *totally* feel bad for you if you were the only person left out of the fun.”

I tightened my grip on her legs to ensure that she wouldn’t be able to escape and forced her up the hill with sled in tow.

“O-Okay, I get it! I’ll ride your damned sled, so let me down already! Wait, wait, what are you doing!? Yuki!? Listen to me! Yuki!!”

“Don’t worry, Lefi. I know that a Supreme Dragon like wouldn’t enjoy a regular sled ride, so I made sure to get something *special* ready for you. Hold on tight. You might fall off if you don’t.”

I positioned the sled such that it was facing down the hill and got on with her still attached to my shoulders.

“Y-you have go to be kidding meeeeeeee!?”

I wasn’t able to dash to give myself a boost this time around, so I instead used wind magic, which I conveniently just happened to learn how to use just a few days ago.

“Mwahahaha!”

I laughed in a manner befitting a Demon Lord as an explosive amount of force suddenly smashed into the sled, accelerating it to its highest speed to date.

“What the!? Did we just lift off!? I’m certain we just lifted off the ground!”

“God damn! That was awesome! I can see another bump right over there. What do you say to round 2?”

“Can we *please* not? I’m beggiuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu!”

The wind had been completely knocked out of Lefi’s lungs by the time we hit the bottom of the hill. She almost looked like she was on the verge of hyperventilating.

“D-Damn you...” she complained. “You went far too fast, and intentionally, at that!”

“Don’t you normally go way faster when you’re flying anyway?”

“Flying and sledding are two completely different experiences!”

I wasn't going to openly admit it, but I understood exactly where she was coming from. In my previous life, I had a friend explain a similar concept to me. He was perfectly fine with bungee jumping. In fact, he loved it. However, he couldn't stand drop towers or any other rides that effectively involved freefalling. That is, he only enjoyed falling when he felt that he was in control. Lefi seemed to be the same, she couldn't tolerate high speeds unless they were brought about by her own actions.

“I clearly had the wrong idea here. I should have been worrying about your fears instead of worrying about you feeling left out, huh? Who would've thought that the supposed oh so mighty supreme dragon wouldn't even be able handle a children's game?”

“Ugh...”

Lefi groaned in response to my teasing. She stayed limp and lifeless for a few moments after, but then underwent a sudden change. I was expecting her to just sigh and get over it. But I was wrong.

A fearless grin had made itself onto her face.

“You know what, Yuki? I think I actually enjoyed the experience quite a bit. In fact, I enjoyed it so much I'd like to do it again. What say you to joining me on another ride?”

The way her eyes shone signalled that it was time for me to back off.

“I uh... just went. It wouldn't be fair for me to go twice in a row, so I think I'll let someone else take my place.”

But I wasn't allowed to escape.

“Oh come on, don't say that. Just try it. I'm certain you'll enjoy it.”

She repeated the words I'd said to her a few minutes earlier right back to me as she got off my shoulders and wrapped both her arms around me from behind. Her grip was tight; she was using far too much of her strength for me to escape.

“Damn it Lefi, you're embarrassing me. Could you save the cuddles for when we're in private?”

“Embarrassed? Have we not already bathed together? What more is there to be embarrassed about?”

Lefi materialized her wings and brought both the sled and I back atop the hill.

“You know what? Fine, bring it on. I love thrill rides, and the hill’s not even that tall. I’ll end up enjoying the hell out of this regardless of how fast you make me go.”

“And what precisely made you think that you would be using the hill? I’ll instead be preparing a *special* track, just for you.”

“Wait, what!?”

“You gave me special treatment, so it’s only fair that I reciprocate it, is it not?”

The ground began to rumble as the supreme dragon drew a horizontal line through the air with one of her arms.

“The heck is that!?”

A massive glacial structure containing twists, turns, loops, and vertical plunges emerged from the earth. It was a veritable roller coaster track, one that even came equipped with guardrails that prevented any potential riders from falling off.

“Are you really going to sled through all that, Onii-chan? Wow! You’re so cool!”

“Whew... I gotta say, that looks like way too much for lil’ old me to handle.”

“What an intricate spell. I almost cannot believe it took her only a second to craft such a massive track.”

The peanut gallery began commenting as if this whole ordeal was none of their business.

“That thing’s way out of scale no matter how you look at it! How the hell’s a sled even supposed to make it all the way through!?”

“Don’t worry. You’re always taking plenty good care of me, so you can expect me to do the same. I will be accelerating you through the use of wind magic. And of course, you’ll be going even faster than I was earlier.”

“That sounds like an awful idea though!?”

“Now go, with all the resolve of a dead man!”

“That’s not something I waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhh!”

Lefi pettily began accelerating me with magic before I could even finish voicing my complaints.

“Hahahaha! This is what it means to incur my wrath! Suffer the weight of my resentment!”

“God damn iiiiiiiiiiiit!!!!”

Chapter 36

Picnic — Continued

“Nnnrrggghh...”

Lefi’s expression twisted in annoyance.

Her thrill ride, which I dubbed the Supreme Dragon Coaster, had failed to serve its intended purpose. At first, I had thought it to be something way beyond what I, or anybody, could handle, but I’d always been the type to love thrills. My wails of anguish transformed into shouts of glee shortly after the “ride” started.

“You mad, Lefi? You that mad that I wasn’t scared?” I boasted.

“Nrggh... Very well, I admit that you were at least braver than I expected.”

Her words were bitter and clearly full of resentment. Seeing the triumphant look on my face caused her to clench her teeth and grind them in an expression of indignance and frustration.

“Heh. That little *joyride* was nothing by my standards. You’ll need to do much more if you want to scare me.”

“You say that, but you were screaming in terror at first,” grumbled Lefi.

“Hey, Onii-chan, Onee-chan, can we eat soon? My tummy’s rumbling...”

“Oh, right. Sorry Illuna, we got a little sidetracked. Well, Lefi? What do you say we call this silly argument off for now so we can have lunch?”

“Fine.”

“Alright then, let’s get everything set up. Leila?”

“Immediately, my Lord.”

Leila flipped the lid off the basket she was carrying and placed its contents atop the picnic sheet. Once she was done, I said grace, the Japanese way, and began to dig in. Likewise, the girls did the same. All but one of them repeated my “itadakimasu,” with perfect pronunciation. Lyuu, the only exception, stumbled over the words a bit. She still seemed a bit unaccustomed to the foreign phrase.

Saying grace had started off as just habit only I had at first, but Illuna and Lefi had adopted it and turned it into a part of our culture back when it was still just the three of us. And as such, the maids had seen no reason not to pick up on it as well.

“Wow, there’s so much karaage! My favourite!” ^[1]

Illuna’s eyes immediately began to sparkle as soon as she saw what we were going to have for lunch. We had a whole slew of different picnic foods prepared, but her hungry gaze remained glued on the one she enjoyed the most.

“Yup. We made plenty, so feel free to eat as much as you’d like.”

Karaage, or Japanese fried chicken, as some called it, naturally required us to find, well, chicken. I wasn’t really sure how we were supposed to get chicken, so I ended up using rockbird meat instead.

Rockbirds were an interesting sort of monster that one could find not too far from the dungeon. Their bodies were covered in feathers as tough as stone, as one could infer from their names. That, however, wasn’t their only namesake. Rockbirds were also known to sing whenever they entered combat. Specifically, they’d start screaming in a way that strongly reminded me of death metal and other similar genres of music. Rockbird meat was delicious. It was soft. Flavorful juices would come leaking out of it with each and every bite. The best part was that its taste wasn’t too strong. It didn’t override the seasonings we enhanced it with.

“Man, this meat is good. I guess going out of my way to hunt monsters just for today’s sake really was worth it after all.”

“This’s monster meat? What’d kind?” asked Lyuu.

“Rockbird.”

“Ohh, rockbird. So that’s why these taste so good, huh?” Lyuu paused for a few moments to process what she heard before suddenly breaking into a shout. “Wait, did

you just say rockbird!? The war tier ones? Ain't those super high class ingredients!?"

"War tier? What's that?"

"Wait, ya don't know the tiers? Er, I guess ya don't since you was askin', huh?"

The warwolf stopped to take a bite before continuing.

"R-Right, so monsters are ranked into tiers based on how threatenin' they are. I think you prob'ly got it all figured out by now, but war tier monsters are supposed able to cause as many casualties as a war, all on their own," she stated a matter-of-factly.

"How many tiers are there?"

"Countin' all of them, there are seven: insignificant, harmful, menace, war, disaster, catastrophe, and calamity. And that's in ascendin' order of how much damage they can cause."

At first, I assumed that a war-tier threat would cause tens of thousands of casualties, but I was apparently off by a whole two orders of magnitude. The wars in this world weren't as large scaled as the ones back in my old world; subjugating a war-tier threat typically led to the sacrifice of one to two hundred troops.

"Huh. I never realized rockbirds were that threatening. It only takes me a single swing of my greatsword to take one out, so I'd always thought of them as easy, delicious prey.

"Er... well, that's just 'cause you defy common sense, Master. But you know what, that ain't somethin' I'll mind so long as I get to keep eatin' delicious meals," said Lyuu. Her expression indicated that she wasn't sure whether or not she should be feeling shocked or impressed.

"Oh Lyuu," Leila giggled. "Rockbirds are amongst the weakest of the monsters our Lord captured for the sake of today's picnic."

Leila looked towards the sandwiches and rice balls laid out at the centre of the picnic mat as she spoke.

The more composed of the two maids had assisted me in making today's lunch. In fact, she helped me with everything besides procuring the ingredients, so she knew exactly what was in each and every single item we were serving. I was all hyped up for the

picnic, so I'd gone all out and procured monster meat as opposed just lazily purchasing things with dungeon points.

"Y'know what, Leila? I'm not even gonna ask. All that matters to lil' old me is that it's delicious. I'mma even say that deliciousness is righteousness. The end justifies the means, as long as it's delicious."

"'Tis not a bad mentality to have," nodded Lefi. "But this meal of ours is still lacking in the deliciousness department, I say. It's almost there, but not quite. It still needs the finishing touches. You do know what I'm saying, don't you, Yuki?"

"Yes, Lefi, I know. There will be dessert, and lots of it."

"Yay! I can't wait!"

"You sure know how to please a gal, Master. Your sweets are so good they always make me wanna stuff my face."

"Excellent."

Illuna, Lyuu, and Lefi all cheered in their own respective ways as they realized that they'd get to finish the meal off with sweets. Leila remained silent, but only because she'd already known ahead of time.

"The world is vast," said Lefi. "But this is likely the one and only place you could ever enjoy sweet food of such a calibre. Rejoice, Lyuu, and be grateful that you are here."

"Wait, why the hell are *you* getting all cocky? It's not like you're the one making them."

"Yuki, listen closely. Their creator is irrelevant. All that matters is that I acknowledged them for their tantalizing deliciousness. And as I have consumed the most sweets of us all, it only goes without saying that my opinion is the most justified."

"Mhmmm, yeah. I'm *sooooo* happy the 'allmighty' supreme dragon acknowledges the sweets I produce." I rolled my eyes.

"Good. That is precisely what you should be feeling. Though, I wouldn't mind if you tinged your feelings with a bit more gratitude."

Apparently not catching my sarcasm, Lefi smiled triumphantly.

モフリル

フェンリル。愛称はリル。
賢いあまりに色々苦勞的な
狼。艶やかなモフモフの
毛並みがチャームポイント。

リューイン

ウォーウルフの女の子。
愛称はリュー。レイラととも
にユキに救われた、元氣
なアホっ娘。モフリル信者。

ユキ

異世界転生し、魔王に生ま
れ変わった青年。しっかり
者で図太い神経の持ち主だ
が、抜けている一面もある。

レフィシオス

覇龍。愛称はレフィ。ユキが
出す日本のお菓子に夢中。
見た目は美少女なのに、中
身は子供っぽい残念な駄龍。

シイ

ユキが初めて召喚したスライ
ム。戦いには不向きだが、
ダンジョンの皆にベットの存
在として愛でられている。

イルーナ

ヴァンパイアの女の子。瀕
死のところをユキに助けら
れた。天真爛漫な性格で、
好きな物は、ユキの血。

レイラ

羊角の魔族の女の子。
リューインとともにユキに救
われた。普段はおっとりだ
が、知的好奇心が旺盛。



“Oh... Right, Master. I’ve been meanin’ to ask. Why d’you keep callin’ Lefi the Supreme Dragon?”

“I could’ve sworn I told you that she was the real deal.”

“No uh... this is my first time hearin’ it, Master. Wait, wait, are you really bein’ serious!?”

“Yeah. *That* right there is the strongest ancient dragon, the supreme dragon. I guess you don’t believe me though, huh?”

“W-Well, I mean, y’know... that ain’t the type of thing that I can just kinda nod along to. The Supreme Dragon’s somethin’ straight out of a legend, ain’t it? I just can’t really see Lefi bein’ it, since, you know, she’s really small and never cares about anything but sugary snacks. And she always starts throwing a fit whenever anyone beats ‘er at somethin’ too.”

Lyyu had a point, and a pretty damned good one at that. If I didn’t know Lefi was the supreme dragon, I would likely assume that she was some sort of squirrel or chipmunk given the frequency with which she stuffed her cheeks with as much food as they could possibly hold.

“What was that, Lyuu? Mind repeating it to my face?”

“I-it ain’t nothin’! T-The only reason I didn’t think you were the supreme dragon was ‘cause I didn’t think the supreme dragon’d be such a beaut!”

“Oh? Tell me, how exactly did you think a Supreme Dragon would look?” said Lefi, menacingly.

“Er, I, um... uh...”

Lyyu’s face rapidly paled as she stuttered over and over.

“Stop that. You’re terrifying her, you idiot.”

Lefi was going overboard, so I scolded her and gave her head a light chop.

“Ow...! Why are you hitting me? It’s not as if I was at fault. Lyuu was—”

“Stop trying to shift the blame. Think about your habits and how you present yourself. You really don’t have the right to complain.”

“..”

Lefi glared at me reproachfully, but I didn’t really care. I stared right back and refused to yield.

“T-Thanks Master, I owe you one. Wait, Leila, you’ve been awfully calm this whole time. Didja already know or somethin’?”

“I did. It is a well known fact that the Wicked Forest’s depths are the Supreme Dragon’s territory. I recall that she had many a dragon under her command when we first met her. If anything, I am more surprised that you were unaware of her identity.”

“T-There’s no way I coulda noticed it back then! Things were just happenin’ way too fast. And then Mofrir showed up, so I like, you know, kinda stopped paying attention to everythin’ else...”

Speaking of Rir, he and Shii were both currently resting in the shade of a nearby tree. I could tell that Shii had already drifted off to sleep, but the same couldn’t be said for the fenrir. His eyes were closed, but his ears had very obviously twitched when Lyuu mentioned his name. It seemed that he was only pretending to be asleep so that we could enjoy ourselves without having to accommodate for him.

Wow, he’s really considerate.

“You guys are talking too much! Let’s all finish eating so we can get back to having fun! I really wanna play badminton again!”

“Good idea, Illuna. Badminton sounds pretty good right about now.”

“Yay! Then let’s play together!”

Illuna broke out into an adorable smile.

“By the way, Master. Is Illuna anythin’ like Lefi, or?”

“Nah. She’s just a normal little girl.”

“That... makes her kinda amazin’ in her own way, dontcha think? It ain’t everyday that you have both the Supreme Dragon and a Demon Lord pamperin’ the same gal. Y’know, it almost feels to me like she’s got even more influence than the two of you seein’ as how her words could prob’ly sway your choices real easy.”

Lyyu was right; I totally agreed.

If I had to organise the dungeon’s hierarchy as any sensible Japanese man would, then I’d likely create a system featuring an Elite Four. Illuna would undoubtedly be the most important, and therefore the most powerful. She’d be followed by Lefi, Rir, and then finally myself in that order.^[2]

The tropes dictated that I, as the weakest and least influential of the Elite Four, would be forced to take on the task of dealing with intruders. More specifically, my role would be engage the intruders in combat, lose, and then tell them not to get cocky just because they defeated me, and that three greater challenges awaited them.

Okay uh, no. What if I subverted the trope a bit?

The tropes also dictated that the weakest member of the Elite Four would die immediately after relaying the aforementioned information to the enemy, and I wasn’t particularly keen on losing my life. I would much rather emerge victorious and state that the challenger in question wasn’t qualified to face any of the others.

Yeah, that sounds way better. Wait, if I’m in charge of driving away people, then I guess I would probably deserve a fancy title to go along with my role, huh? What if I called myself the dungeon’s shield? Actually, yeah, that sounds pretty good. Heh. I could totally be like, “I am Yuki, the fearsome Demon Lord that rules this dungeon and serves as its aegis!”

“Huh? What was that for all of a sudden, Onii-chan?”

“Nothing. Nothing at all.”

Oh crap, I totally said that out loud.

And so, the outing continued. We made noise, played games, and fooled around until Illuna ran out of energy and started drifting off to dreamland.



Chapter 37

The Kingdom Of Allysia

The Kingdom of Allysia was famous. Despite being located in the continent's northwestern corner, it was considered a central hub in which merchants and scholars gathered from all over the realm. The kingdom's prosperity was brought about by its abundant human resources. It possessed more people than any of the surrounding nations, and as such, was able to better assign individuals to roles befitting their talents. The country's economy was more developed than any of those in its vicinity, and, of course, its people saw the benefits.

And that was only the tip of the iceberg. The Allysians were indeed proud of their robust economy, but they were even more proud of the state of their technology. The magically enhanced items and tools produced in Allysia were often a full generation ahead of what could be found elsewhere. It went without saying that their advancements were not limited to devices for the masses. Their military tools had also been subject to innovation.

The might of the Allysians was no secret. Allysian flags and soldiers could be found amongst those leading charges against demi-human forces more often than not.

The man that sat at this mighty nation's forefront, its current monarch, was King Reiyd Glorrio Allysia. King Reiyd had yet to achieve anything revolutionary. He wasn't seen by his people as a hero capable of breaking through an army felling an enemy general with his own two hands, or anything else along those lines.

However, he was regarded as a splendid ruler nonetheless. His policies brought the country stability, and as such, his people considered him reliable.

"I implore you to reconsider, your majesty! We must take action! The time has come!"

Said king was currently entertaining a visitor in the throne room. The younger man attempting to persuade him was none other than his son, Riutt Glorrio Allysia.

Reiyd believed that his son had developed into a fine young man. The prince loved his country and always worked hard to serve it. Alas, Riutt was still young. He failed to

understand that his passion could sometimes be misdirected—

“My son, I understand your concerns, but I will not allow you to act.”

—And that this was precisely one of those times.

“So you want me to sit by, twiddle my thumbs, and watch!? Our country was just subject to an invasion!” raged Riutt. He was practically shouting at the top of his lungs.

The king knew the cause of his son’s anger. The messenger that had arrived just a few days prior had informed them both that Alfyro, a city near one of the country’s borders, had been temporarily occupied by an army of monsters.

“The assault, or invasion, as you call it, was insignificant. The situation has already resolved itself. The only individuals harmed were criminals. I see no reason for us to deploy our soldiers,” said the king. Unlike his son, he was able to remain calm as he made his verdict.

It wasn’t as if the king hadn’t considered retaliation. Rather, he was refusing his son precisely because he had already considered it. In the king’s eyes, picking a fight with the invaders wasn’t worth it given their point of origin. But much to the king’s dismay, his son did not share his judgement.

“That amount of harm caused is irrelevant. What matters is that our country’s borders were breached by a foreign force!”

Listening to his father’s conclusion had only caused Riutt to become even more passionate.

Riutt firmly believed that retaliating and assaulting the enemy with a counter-invasion was the best choice to make. He was concerned that the monsters would return and attack the city once more if they did not immediately demonstrate the extent of their power.

Another reason the prince wished to launch an assault was that he was simply angry. One of the towns in his beloved country had been damaged by mindless monsters, mere animals without the ability to reason.

But in truth, both of those reasons were mere pretenses, excuses.

The truth of the matter was that the prince wanted to expand his country's borders. The monsters that invaded Alfyro had come from the Wicked Forest. All of the countries bordering the Wicked Forest had classified it as too dangerous to conquer.

In other words, it was untouched, prime real estate, yet to be claimed—a literal mountain of treasure.

And Prince Riutt desperately desired it. Annexing the Wicked Forest would, without a doubt, strengthen his nation. But his father, the king, was too afraid of the Supreme Dragon to conquer it. In Riutt's eyes, his father's fear was unfounded. The Supreme Dragon was supposed to have settled down in the Wicked Forest's depths hundreds of years ago. The prince knew the legends, but he doubted that the dragon had remained. At the very least, it had not been sighted in recent times.

He knew that the monsters that made the forest their home were powerful, but so were the enchanted items and weapons at his disposal. He knew that his forces could deal with them, that they had a good shot at making the Wicked Forest their own.

In other words, the Prince believed that the only thing preventing Allysia from annexing the Wicked Forest was his father's cowardice.

"You are only saying that because you have failed to grasp the Wicked Forest's nature," said the king, with a sigh.

"I know it, and I know it well. It is but another uncharted region teeming with dangerous monsters."

"You would not wish to challenge it if you truly understood it."

The father frowned as he gazed upon his stupid, stubborn excuse of a son, his eyes filled with disappointment.

An expression that Riutt simply could not tolerate.

"I do not care what you say, Riutt. I will not permit you to send our forces to the forest. That is a royal decree."

"...Fine." Riutt clenched his teeth. "I will refrain from it for the time being."

The prince turned around and violently burst out of the throne room in a fit of rage

before lumbering down the royal palace's elaborate hallway.

He didn't even bother trying to hide his displeasure. It was clear that anyone that approached him as he was now was prone to incurring his wrath. Despite that, another man soon scurried to his side.

"What now, Your Highness? His Majesty's royal decree makes it quite difficult for us to play our hand."

"His Majesty knows nothing of our plans, and he will continue to know nothing of our plans," said Riutt, bitterly.

"So proceed as planned?"

"Yes. Rally the troops."

"By your will."

The man left the prince's side in order to attend to his duties.

With no one to accompany him, and no destination in mind, the prince stopped walking and turned towards the one of the castle's many ornate decorations.

Though he was staring the decoration down, it failed to be reflected in his eyes, as his gaze was filled with naught but the light of a passionate, uncontrollable ambition.



The clattering of footsteps and clanging of metal echoed throughout the Wicked Forest as a group of armoured, disciplined men trudged their way through it.

They were moving in formation, but the group as a whole still seemed a bit awkward and unnatural. In a sense, one could say that it was only to be expected. Though all the individuals present had gathered under the prince's banner, they weren't truly a unified division. They were merely cooperating with one another in order to get the job done.

Most of the troops were soldiers employed by Allysian nobles. They were all technically a part of the same, overarching organisation, but they'd never actually met each other prior to embarking on the expedition. They all served different masters;

each group worked at a slightly different pace. Naturally, they were only here to further their employers' interests. The nobles had sent them to the prince's aid in hopes that he would provide them with a piece of the territory he had set out to claim.

"Ugh. I hate this. Why the hell are we all the way out here?" groaned one of the soldiers.

"Chin up man. I know how you feel. This place is dangerous as all hell, but they be payin' us real good for the job, don't they? Besides, we've got a good number of experienced veteran fighters with us, alongside the newest gear, so it ain't all bad."

"Yeah, we made a killin'"

The two men that replied to the soldier's complaints were mercenaries. Like everyone else present, they were also selected for the job by someone that wanted to get on the prince's good side. Mercenaries would typically act like bandits in times of peace, so many of the actual soldiers detested the men, but they did at least acknowledge their strength.

"Besides, heard some demon or demi or something kidnapped a bunch of demi girls. If things go well, we could get a taste of those girls ourselves."

"Hehehe, demis? I like me the sound of that. Guess I better work *hard*."

"You won't last if you start getting all excited now, you limp dick."

"Heh, no worries there, bro. My boy down there can stay hard longer than a rockbird."

The men continued to engage in the vilest of conversations as they moved—an act only made possible because they had yet to learn that they were marching straight into the gates of hell.

[Arc 4: Dungeon Defense]

Chapter 38

The Invasion

It was night time. Illuna was asleep and the maids had already returned to their room. Lefi and I were bored. We didn't really have anything better to do, so had we started playing board games.

That was when it happened.

"What the!?"

I reacted with a jolt as my menu system suddenly activated and pulled up a map of the dungeon.

"What's the matter, Yuki?"

"It looks like there are some uninvited guests headed our way."

"Intruders?"

"Yeah," I frowned.

There were two scenarios in which my map would open on its own accord. The first was when something hostile got too close to the dungeon core. The second was when the dungeon's territories were invaded by anything that generated more than a certain number of Dungeon Points. The amount of Dungeon Points something was worth was directly proportional how powerful that something was, so in essence, both cases served to indicate that the dungeon was in danger.

One of the warning system's most interesting features was that it was flexible. It could trigger based off both individual enemies and groups of enemies. That is, it could still activate even if we were invaded by a large party comprised of weaker entities so long as the the sum of all their individual Dungeon Point values exceeded a certain threshold.

And this time, that was precisely the case. My territory had been invaded by a swarm

of weaklings.

The only reason I was capable of discerning that the individual invaders were weak was because my map had recently undergone an upgrade. It was now capable of showing me detailed information about each invader, with one of these details being the trespassers' races. This time, they were all human. There looked to be about four to five hundred of them in total.

"Do you have any idea who they are?" asked Lefi.

"Well, they're all wearing similar equipment, so they probably belong to an army."

"Oh?"

"Remember how we attacked some human town in order to get Illuna back? I'm pretty sure the country that town's affiliated with dispatched their troops because they weren't happy with what we did."

"So you're saying that the fools failed to learn their lesson?"

"Pretty much, yeah."

"Then shall I destroy them?"

A cold, dark smile made its way across Lefi's face. The humans knew that she ruled the Wicked Forest's deepest parts. Their invasion demonstrated that they no longer respected her authority. And that, she would not stand for.

Lefi was capable of resolving the situation with ease. In fact, letting her lose would have been the most efficient way of dealing with our "guests." But still, I shook my head and rejected the offer.

"Nah," I smiled. "I'd rather not have to rely on you if possible. This is my dungeon, defending it and everyone that lives in it is my responsibility. Besides, this is the perfect opportunity for me to try something I've been meaning to test."

I had already known that this was going to happen.

The city's governor was willing to comply with our demands. It was clear that he understood our power and didn't want to challenge us. There was, however, no

guarantee that his country would feel the same. As far as they were concerned, we were in the wrong. We had crossed their borders, threatened their citizens, and even occupied one of their towns.

I was certain that some hot-headed higher up would ignore all the governor's warnings and send troops at us for the sake of retaliation. There was no way that mentioning the Supreme Dragon would be enough to pacify all the idiotic patriots at the country's helm.

They were sure to challenge her; they were doomed to repeat their predecessors' mistakes.

But in essence, that was precisely what it meant to be human.

My knowledge of my old world's history was enough to inform me that, for humans, forgetting the past was normal. Humanity had always continued to make the same mistakes over and over. The lessons our ancestors left us would always fade with time and be left forgotten in the annals of history.

It was precisely that bit of knowledge that led me to expect this invasion. And since I expected it, I was ready for it.

I'd been expanding the amount of territory covered by the dungeon at almost every given opportunity. I had already integrated a fair part of the forest into my domain. My plan was to have the invaders assist me in testing out two of the dungeon features that I wished to further explore.

The first of these features was setting traps through the dungeon's interface. I had already used this function prepare everything ahead of time, so I knew how it worked. However, I had no clue how effective the traps were. I needed to see them in action. The second feature was altering the lay of the land that I had acquired through the expansion of my domain.

I took a deep breath and stopped thinking about the dungeon as I took turns glancing at Lefi, who was staring straight at me, and Illuna, who was still asleep.

My second life was... an enjoyable one. I spent most of my time effectively doing whatever I wanted. I could waste days just messing around without having to face the consequences.

I never ended up finding myself wanting to be human again. I never once yearned to be a part of human society. Nor had I ever wished that I was still back in Japan.

And it was all thanks to them.

Lefi and Illuna were why my days had always been so filled with joy. I was certain that I would have longed for my homeland had they not been there for me.

That was why I had no mercy to show for those that threatened them, for those that threatened to take away the happy days I spent with them by my side.

If the soldiers were *our* enemies, I would destroy them. No questions asked.

“But, I guess I’ll at least issue them a warning first.”

I was prepared to do whatever it took to protect my dungeon and its inhabitants. But I too had once been human. I couldn’t help but feel a slight tinge of lingering compassion for the intruders that I had once shared a race with. So I decided that I would at least offer them an opportunity to leave.

“Hey Lefi...?”

I got up and materialized my wings as I began to speak.

“What is it, Yuki?”

She spoke in her usual, casual tone—

“I’m going to step out for a bit. Could you do me a favour watch over the dungeon for me while I’m away?”

“Very well,” she nodded. “I... will await your return.”

—Or at least she tried.

“Be quick about it. It’s your turn next, and I fear my impatience might drive me to make your move for you if you take too long.”

Her voice wavered and conveyed to me the subtle emotions behind the words she’d chosen not to say.

Thank you, Lefi.

“I swear, you better not.”

I smiled wryly and did my best to stop my emotions from surfacing as I left the throne room and readied myself to confront the intruders.

Chapter 39

A Warning Past Dark

It was the middle of the night. The army's camp was almost dead silent. Most of the soldiers had retreated to one of the many tents laid out atop the forest's floor and gone to sleep. But of course, not all of them had the liberty to retire for the night immediately. Some were tasked with the duty of staying awake and ensuring that the army would not be caught off guard by an emergency. About half of these soldiers were up and about, wandering the campgrounds, while the other half cuddled around a campfire and waited the night away.

Checking the map, I realized that there weren't any monsters in the camp's immediate vicinity. There were several sitting off in the distance, observing it from afar, but they dared not approach. The humans were likely using some sort of magical device to deter them. I had no doubts that the technology for it existed. The slave trader we'd taken Illuna back from had used something similar on Rir.

Though I knew the camp was guarded, I made no attempt at sneaking around. I simply waltzed right through it without a care in the world. Stealth, one of my recently acquired skills, allowed me to turn invisible, so there was no need for me to be cautious. Unfortunately, the skill's invisibility wasn't perfect. It's effectiveness varied drastically based on how powerful I was compared to whatever was trying to perceive me. The guards, however, were pitifully weak. They couldn't hold a candle to me, so none of them noticed anything out of the ordinary even when I walked right past them.

I found myself in front of the largest, fanciest tent after a minute or two of wandering around.

Looks like this is probably the commander's tent.

I gave it a quick once over in order to confirm I had the right place before nonchalantly stepping inside.

"Who's there...!?"

The man within got up from his bed and grabbed the sword he left by his bedside the

moment I entered his tent. His voice was gruff and he spoke in a low, cautioned tone.

“Oh? It appears that you are able to perceive me.”

The man standing before me was strong. His level was far higher than that of any other soldiers present. But still, he was only human. His stats were inferior to those of the monsters that populated the forest. I was certain that rockbirds and other similar monsters would be able to crush him with ease.

His skill list contained many entries that bolstered his ability to organise his troops and take command. He was evidently skilled in logistics, and likely the army’s commander.

I was going to need to reveal myself if I wanted to talk to him, so I undid my invisibility. I made sure to do it gradually so that he wouldn’t overreact and attack me out of sheer anxiety.

“What th—”

“Be silent unless you wish for me to immediately deprive you of your life.”

I loosed a wave of bloodlust-drenched magical energy in order to intimidate the man, a technique I learned back when I had assaulted the slave trader. All I had to do to activate it was focus on wanting to kill while gathering my magic before releasing the built up energy into my surroundings.

Almost all of this world’s creatures had the ability to sense magic, so the method I’d come up with was extremely effective when it came to expressing my intent to kill. Like Stealth, channeling my raw bloodlust would affect my enemies more or less based on our relative power levels. Individuals stronger than me would shrug it off without a care in the world, but individuals equal to or weaker than me would be subject to intense pressure. It would often make them panic and perhaps even falter when attempting to launch an attack. Creatures that were too much weaker than me would instantly faint upon exposure.

The man’s reaction to my bloodlust evidenced that he was much stronger than your average Joe; he had managed to remain conscious. However, that wasn’t to say he hadn’t felt its effects. He’d immediately broken out into a cold sweat. But that wasn’t all. The sheer extent of the fear he experienced had caused him to obey my order and instantly shut his mouth.

“Are you the pathetic whelp in charge of this army?”

I spoke to him in a condescending tone. I’d determined that it was necessary for me to speak in a way that befitted my Demon Lord title else risk having the enemy make light of me.

“N-No, I’m not.” He stumbled over his words. It sounded like he’d only barely managed to bring himself to speak.

Wait, what?

“And that is the truth?”

“I swear it.”

The soldier was clearly still on guard, but I didn’t think he was lying. He just didn’t to have the composure required to do so.

The fuck!? Seriously? Is he really not the guy in charge here? Oh god, this is embarrassing... I just totally walked in on him and confidently assumed that he was the guy running the place. Ugh... I feel like a fucking moron. What kind of retard assumes the strongest fighter is also always the one in charge? That’d be an awful way to manage things. God. I’m so fucking retarded I should just find myself a hole so I can curl up in it and die.

I felt an overwhelming urge to hide myself in a corner somewhere, but somehow managed to fight it off.

Okay, Yuki, that’s enough of that. Pull yourself together. You have business to attend to.

Thinking things through a bit more, I realized that I wasn’t *entirely* wrong. His tent and skill indicated that he had influence. There was simply no way he wasn’t among the brass.

“Oh? But are you not the strongest member of this ‘army?’”

“...They put someone else in charge.” The man grimaced as he spoke.

He clearly wasn’t happy. If I were to guess, I’d assume that the individual commanding the group was likely some noble that had the position presented to them on a silver

platter, despite not deserving it. That said, I didn't care enough to pry.

"If that is the case, then relay my message to your superior, word for word."

"...Alright."

Though hesitant, the man nodded. He was an excellent soldier. Though he didn't have the Analysis skill, he could still discern that he was much weaker than me, so he remained obedient as opposed to trying something stupid. Moreover, he was constantly looking around and analyzing his surroundings in hopes of finding something that would assist in him in turning the tides in his favour as he engaged me in conversation.

"Then listen well. You have already entered my territory. If you dare advance further, then I will slay each and every single one of you without mercy or exception. I care not for your purposes. If you wish to live, then turn tail and leave this place at once."

The man's eyes stopped skittering around the room and focused on me. It seemed like he wanted to ask me something, but was unsure if it would incur my wrath.

"You may speak."

He swallowed his saliva before raising his voice.

"I would like you ask you just one question."

"I shall allow it."

"Why would someone as strong as you bother issuing us a warning? Why not just wipe us all out?"

I grinned as would a psychotic villain before answering him.

"Have you not the sense to discern the obvious? It is because eliminating your excuse for an army would be a nuisance."

"A... nuisance...?"

"I care little for you and your people. I have no interest in your affairs. I have merely decided that I will allow you to leave should you abide by my decree, and that I will

crush you if you oppose it. I suppose you have grasped this much, at the very least?"

The man nodded, so I continued.

"Then, I ask you this. Would you not find it a nuisance to crush each and every single ant that strays into your domain? It is easy to bring about their end, but requires a far greater time investment than it otherwise deserves. That is how I feel about you. Stamping out your lives is no difficult task, but I do not wish to waste my time."

"A-Are you saying that humans are no different from ants!?"

"Precisely. The differences between your species are so miniscule that I find myself unconsciously placing you in the same category."

Despite my claims, I didn't actually think that humans and ants were the same. Ants were much more terrifying. The Wicked Forest's ants were the toughest enemies I've faced to date. They had scared me shitless with their tenacity. I still felt traumatized by them even now.

"That is all I have to say. I shall provide you a short period of grace. Leave and continue to live, or stay and perish. The choice is yours."

I activated Stealth once again as I left the tent. It was a simple process on my end, but to him, it'd almost appeared as if I'd vanished into the night itself.

Chapter 40

A Demonstration the Dungeon's Features

“...Yeah, I figured it wouldn't go as well as I hoped.”

I quietly grumbled as I used the dungeon's UI to watch the man I had just threatened. He had heeded my warning and done exactly as I asked. That is, he dashed straight out of his tent the moment I left and immediately sought an audience with the army's commander. He attempted to explain the situation and persuade his boss that they were in great peril, but the commander didn't believe him.

The man I spoke to was the only one that saw me, so everyone else assumed that he had either had a nightmare or simply lost his mind. Despite being belittled by those around him, he didn't falter or doubt his own judgement. He promptly roused his unit and led it out of the forest.

A wise choice.

Unlike his colleagues, he had made the choice to both live and save the lives of his men.

“Uhhmmm...”

“Yes, Lefi?”

“Answer me this, Yuki. Why have you already returned, and why do you appear so unfazed...?”

The Supreme Dragon's voice was filled with a sort of hesitant confusion.

“Well, all I did was issue a threat, so...”

“Tell me that before you leave next time...”

Lefi began to blush as she pouted in displeasure.

“I not only roused your spirits as I saw you off, but also convinced myself that I would

need to refrain from sleeping until you returned. I feel like a fool, and it is all your fault.”

I couldn’t help but think that her reaction was cute.

“Yeah, my bad. Here, how about I make it up to you by showing you something you’ll probably find interesting.”

I fiddled around with the dungeon’s UI as I spoke and changed my map’s display settings so that she could see it. The dungeon still treated Lefi like an invader. But in spite of that, I’d gained the ability to show her the dungeon’s UI at will. To be honest, I still didn’t understand exactly how the dungeon gauged whether or not it was okay for someone to see its display, but if I had to guess, then I’d say it probably had something to do with trust.

I used the map to open up a separate window and directed her attention towards it.

“So *these* are the intruders?”

“Yeah, they’re the idiots that thought invading our territory was a bright idea.”



Reflected in the display was a real time image of the campground I'd just returned from. The man I'd spoken to was gone, and all those under his command had left with him, but for the most part, it'd been exactly as it was when I'd first arrived. It was still littered with sleepy looking soldiers tottering about as they waited for their night shifts to end.

The reason we were able to view the campsite from the throne room was because I had scattered evil eyes, nifty little monsters I could spawn through the dungeon's systems, all around the area prior to returning. Evil eyes looked like baseball sized eyes that'd sprouted wings. Though they were technically monsters, they weren't meant for combat; their only ability was to forward what they saw back to the dungeon's display. In other words, they were more or less just wireless cameras.

As they were inorganic and basically a type of golem, they didn't need any sustenance. They could function so long as the dungeon supplied them with its magical energy, which meant that they would cease to work if they were taken out of the dungeon's territory. But as far as I was concerned, that weakness of theirs was irrelevant. I wasn't planning to leave the dungeon, so there wasn't much of a point in me having eyes outside my own territory.

I had to admit that I did, at some point, feel that I wanted to tour the world. But actually doing so simply wasn't a viable choice, as I would have to leave the dungeon core, which was more or less my heart, behind.

I had already cautioned the army against remaining in my domain, and my message had without a doubt, been relayed to their leader. In other words, all those that were still present had chosen to oppose me even though I'd kindly gone out of my way to tell them that I wanted them to leave. Their goal might not have been to attack us, but I didn't care. There were, by all means, unauthorized trespassers. And armed ones at that. I was clearly right to attack them.

Woo, free lab rats! Er, I mean, time for legitimate self defense!



"Huh? What the hell? When'd it suddenly get all bright out?"

One of the guards on night duty raised a hand to his brow as if he was trying to block the sun out of his eyes as he voiced a confused mutter.

“Ha!” The guard beside him chuckled. “Looks like the lack of rest has started gettin’ to ya. It’s still somewhere around midni—”

The soldier never got to finish his sentence. He’d been silenced by a third guard, who’d impaled him straight through the heart from behind.

“W-We’re under attack! They have us surrounded!”

The man who’s sword was now stained in crimson screamed at the top of his lungs as he ripped his blade out from his ally’s corpse. He then turned around and began swinging his sword at the air in a panic. He continued to strike and dodge, as if he were really engaged in combat.

And he wasn’t the only one.

He and many of the other guards on night duty had completely failed to realize that they were no longer perceiving the same sounds and sights as their allies.

They’d all completely lost their minds.

Noise began permeating its way through the camp as an increasing number of guards began succumbing to madness.

Those resting in their tents soon began to stir. They got up and lit their torches as they attempted to identify the source of the commotion.

“What the fuck is going on here!?”

The army’s commander emerged from his quarters and shouted in confusion. A single glance at him was enough to tell that he had obtained his position through the use of political means. He was morbidly obese and lacked the air carried by those experienced in military affairs.

“I’m not sure sire! It appears that all the men are saying different thi—”

The man collapsed before he finish his report. His head, which’d been severed cleanly from his neck, fell from his corpse rolled to the commander’s feet.

“W-What the!?”

“ENENENENENEMMIIMIMIIIIIIIEEEEESSS!”

Behind the now headless soldier stood what appeared to be another allied soldier. His mouth was hanging half open, with drool leaking out the sides. His blade was covered with human blood and fat.

He was clearly deranged.

“O-Oi! Stop! Don’t get any closer!” The commander attempted to issue the man an order, but he continued to advance as opposed to heeding it. “Stop him! S-Someone stop that man at once!”

Fortunately for the commander, not all the soldiers had gone totally mad. Several individuals that still had their wits about them seized the man that had lost his ability to reason and pinned him to the ground.

“Just what the hell is going on here!?”

Again, the commander shouted in confusion as he looked about the campsite.

Or rather, the degenerated mess it had become.



“Oh...? So you made use of the tree of delusion?”

Lefi made an idle comment as she observed the campsite remotely. The tone of her voice indicated that the results of my work had served to pique her interest.

“Yeah. I’m surprised you know about them.”

“Of course I do.”

I was genuinely impressed that Lefi had recognized the cause of the soldier’s madness just by seeing the state they’d ended up in.

She’d immediately caught onto the fact that I’d used the rauschgift balm, also known as the tree of delusion. Rauschgift balms had the ability to cause creatures that remained in their vicinity to go mad.

They did this by releasing their magical energies. Nearby entities would automatically absorb this energy and lose their minds once too much of it accumulated within their bodies. The exact delusions shown differed greatly between individuals. Monsters were highly sensitive to magical energies, so they would immediately realize that they shouldn't stay near the trees. Humans, however, lacked the senses to make such a judgement.

That was why I'd chosen to use the dungeon's systems to spawn them throughout my territory. They weren't native to the area, but the dungeon had made it so that they could thrive regardless. As they'd been created by the dungeon, they were also completely under its control, which meant I could turn their magic-emitting functions on and off any any time, from anywhere.

This time around, I'd activated the trees from the throne room after confirming that the army's commander had chosen not to heed my warning.

Both Lefi and I were immune to the rauschgift balms' effects. The two of us simply had too much magical energy. Any external magics we took in would end up getting mixed in with our much denser mana and be rendered ineffective. I'd always thought that it would be the opposite. My body was made up of the magical particles that magic was based off of, so I'd always assumed that I would be incredibly susceptible to having my magical energies disrupted, but I was wrong.

I'd once even nervously tried using a high grade potion on myself, just as a test, only to find that it had absolutely no effect on me whatsoever. My mana was just that dense.

"It does not appear that you will be able to exterminate them with only the trees' effects," said Lefi.

"Well duh. I've still got more in store for them. Come on, shouldn't you already know how much of a genius I am?"

"You are aware that the people that label themselves geniuses most often aren't, right?"

"Alright, fine. Let's put this way," I grinned mischievously. "I'm at least smart enough to kick your ass every single time we play any board game. You've literally never beat me."

"T-That is only because we were playing games you happened to be more skilled at!

Besides, we didn't even finish the last game we played. You know what, Yuki, the status quo is going to change! I will crush you in a battle of wits. Let us play immediately and settle the score!"

Lefi promptly challenged me out of sheer indignance, her face bright red once more.

"Yeah, yeah, whatever you say. Just let me finish this up first, okay?"

I dropped the palm of my hand on her head and lightly stroked her hair as I smiled and activated the next trap I had in store.

Chapter 41

Tower Defense Games Are Fun!

“Follow me! The magical energy’s thinner over here!”

It took awhile, but the humans eventually realized that a strange magic was in the air. One of their members, a man that looked to be a mage, had identified it as the source of the madness afflicting the army’s members, and had started leading his allies away from it. For a human, his ability to sense magical energy was outstanding.

A slight bit of order had finally been restored because he had brought a large group of soldiers to an area where the delusion-inducing spell was less potent. His commands were the reason the complete and utter chaos had finally started to abate. A brief whistling noise rang through the man’s ears as he turned to face the men he had rallied, but he paid it no mind. The sound had only lasted for a fraction of a second, so he had unconsciously assumed it to be unimportant.

“S-Sir, y-you...”

The footsoldier right in front of him, however, did not. He was clearly panicking, but he still managed to stammer out a few words and get the mage’s attention.

“What?”

The mage shifted his body slightly to look the man who’d addressed him, only to find him frozen in shock with his finger pointed straight at the mage’s center of mass. Since the other man seemed unable to speak, the mage decided to follow his line of sight; he looked straight down at his own body.

“H-Huh?”

The sight he was greeted with was an unfamiliar one.

His gut was gone. Everything between his stomach and his solar plexus had instead been replaced by a large, circular hole. The moment the man noticed his missing organs was the moment the light faded from his eyes. He died on the spot, unable to

even feel pain.

Only after he collapsed did his allies finally realize that his killer had been standing right behind him the whole time.

It swayed left and right in an almost unnatural fashion as it searched for more prey.

“Is that... a branch of ivy?”

One of the men narrowed his eyes in confusion as he gazed upon the odd, moving plant. Its branches, dyed red with blood, still had the mage’s entrails hanging off of them. After another moment of swaying, the ivy plant lashed out once again, aiming a branch at the skull of a nearby soldier that was stuck staring in mute amazement.

A dull wet sound resounded through the forest as the bloody whip of a branch shredded his skull and splattered its insides all over the undergrowth.

Only then did the other soldiers finally react. They promptly turned around and made a beeline back to the campsite.

“S-Shit! This place ain’t no good, there’s monsters here! We gotta find another way!”

“Fuck! Fuck!! Aren’t we supposed to have something that keeps them away!? Why isn’t it fucking working!?”

“W-Which way are we supposed to go!? How the hell are we supposed to get out of here!?”

“Oi! Stop panicking! Pull yourself together, you idiot!”

With their leader gone, the soldiers found themselves reduced to a mere disorderly mob.

Some tried to take leadership and rally their allies. Others pushed their fellow soldiers aside in an attempt to flee and save themselves. A third group panicked, fell into madness, and began screaming nonsensically while attacking anything and everything that fell within their reach.

“W-why the hell is there a swamp here!? Shit!”

A man shrieked as he accidentally fell straight into a bottomless marsh that had seemingly appeared out of nowhere. Unable to escape, he slowly sank beneath the surface and drowned in its muddy waters.

“S-Someone help! Oh god, oh god it hurts! I don’t want to die!”

Another man found himself in the mouth of a large, carnivorous plant. Its stomach fluids were slowly but surely digesting his body, bones and all.

“Ngraaaaaaaaghhhhh!”

A third soldier was being assaulted by a large cloud of poison. It rapidly ate away at his flesh as would a strong acid.

One by one, the soldiers died gruesome, miserable deaths.

There was nowhere for them to run. Pain, suffering, and death awaited them at each and every single corner. The scene painted before their eyes was a veritable hellscape.

“Shit! Shit shit shit shit shit! Don’t come any closer! Stay away!”

The commander, who was supposed to be responsible for maintaining order and making decisions, was gasping and screaming in delirium. He was in no state to take charge. And without his instructions, the army simply had no choice but to slowly fall apart.

As time passed, the number of death throes and despair-filled screams began to dwindle, slowly returning the forest’s depths to their usual silent state.

And not because the soldiers had escaped.

But rather, because they had been forcibly silenced.



“That went better than expected.”

I put on a bit of a forced smile as I watched the scene play out on the dungeon’s display. Eliminating my enemies had been easy. They had walked straight into my traps and ended themselves, one after another. It’d almost felt like I was playing tower defense.

The only difference was that my enemies had no fixed destination in mind. They instead simply wandered about until they died.

Since the slaughter took place in a forest, most of my traps had been based on plants and other things that could be found in nature. I'd avoided the typical bowguns and spike traps because they were much too easy to discover in a forested environment.

The best place for traps like those were caves. But that said, I didn't place anything potentially harmful in the cave that led into the throne room. Though I was fairly certain they wouldn't malfunction, I didn't want to risk hurting Illuna and the maids.

I also didn't want my front door to be slathered in gore. The scenes that had just played out on my dungeon's display were so explicit that I half expected a viewer discretion warning to periodically pop up and remind me that I was watching something children should never be allowed to see. I was grateful that the invasion had happened while Illuna was asleep. I definitely didn't want to let her see the nausea-inducing projection before me.

Personally, I wasn't a fan of gore. I didn't like watching it, and I wasn't too keen on the idea of imagining it either. But because I'd just watched a massacre unfold, the sight of people getting digested by plants had been thoroughly embedded into my consciousness. I couldn't unsee it. The imagery was so striking and vivid that I almost didn't want to use the traps I'd just tested even though I'd gone through the trouble of verifying their practicality.

"That's all it took to reduce them to mere corpses? They were much weaker than I imagined," said Lefi, nonchalantly. Unlike me, she hadn't seemed to mind the gore in the slightest. Being the Supreme Dragon, she was likely totally accustomed to it. Either way, I had to admit, I respected her mental fortitude.

"Well, the leader was more or less incompetent. And as I'm sure you saw, the army lacked cohesion. Their equipment was similar, but it wasn't identical. I'm pretty sure they were just a ragtag bunch of smaller units banded together or something."

My strategy hadn't been anything special. It was just another application of the battle-tested method known as "divide and conquer." All I did was confuse the enemy and destroy their troops while they were split off into smaller, less organised groups.

To be honest, I hadn't thought that the massacre would go nearly as well as it did. The

error in my calculations stemmed from the enemies lack of cohesion. Their disharmony had allowed me to create more confusion than anticipated, which in turn allowed me to trim down their forces with a greater degree of ease.

Man, the effects of incompetence sure can be terrifying, huh? I wouldn't have been able to finish the army off this easily had the person in charge had actually used his brain. But man, that aside, dungeons sure are terrifying.

Though my enemies had been incompetent, there were still about 400 of them, even after the one guy I'd threatened had taken his troops and left. And despite that, I'd eliminated the entire army with ease. Today's experience had allowed me to understand just how much havoc a dungeon could wreak. And as a Demon Lord, learning that bit of knowledge had bolstered my confidence. Nothing else could've have possibly made me feel any more comfortable or empowered.

In fact, I was so satisfied with the dungeon's abilities that I'd felt the urge to give it a high five.

"I'm quite impressed that you happened to place your traps in all the right areas," said Lefi. She finally took her eyes off the screen and directed them back towards me.

"Well, that'd just be because I knew that the humans were most likely going to be coming from the town we attacked. I placed a large number of traps in the area between it and us ahead of time and then added more after I confirmed that my suspicions had been correct."

"I see... That does seem like the logical choice." Lefi nodded. "Splendid. A new door has opened for me in the way of tactics."

I wasn't really sure what she was going on about, so I just nodded along and let her keep talking.

"I shall try implementing the strategy myself. Now, Yuki, it is time to do as you promised. Let us continue where we left off and bring a conclusion to our clash of wits."

"Wait, you want to do it *now!*?"

"Of course, it wouldn't do for us to delay it any further."

“You do know that the sun’s about to rise in just a few hours, right?”

“Well... I’ve admittedly taken one too many afternoon naps lately, so I haven’t been able to sleep too well at night. I’m not exactly tired yet.”

God damn lazy ass “Supreme Dragon...”

And so, Lefi and I decided to play a couple more games before going to sleep. Naturally, I ended up winning them all with ease.

Chapter 42

Side story: Gamdia Roston

A strange tingling sensation assaulted Gamdia Roston and awoke him from his slumber.

“...?”

He sat up and opened his eyes, only to be assaulted by a sense of malaise before he could so much as bring his vision into focus. The atmosphere inside his tent was *off*. Every last hair on his body stood on end as his eyes anxiously explored his surroundings.

Something was wrong; it almost felt to him like he wasn't alone.

“Who's there...!?”

Trusting his instincts, he grabbed the sword by his bedside as he voiced a question directed to the intruder.

“Oh? It appears that you are able to perceive me.”

It suddenly showed itself. A creature with an outline not too different from that of a human almost seemed to phase into existence before his very eyes. *Its* form revealed itself little by little, as if slowly seeping out of the darkness.

It, or rather *he*, had pitch black hair, an eerie crimson eye, and dragon-like wings sprouting from his back. Gamdia was shocked, but his mind remained unfrozen. It informed him that the man that stood before him was most likely a demon, and that he perfectly matched the description of the man that had led the assault on Alfyro.

“What th—”

“Be silent unless you wish for me to immediately deprive you of your life.”

The air that filled the tent almost seemed to become laden with weight the moment

the demon opened his mouth. An incredible pressure assaulted Gamdia's body. It was so heavy that he had to muster up every last fibre of willpower he had just to stay conscious. The dense magical energy radiating off the demon's body slowly ate away at his spirit, but he continued to resist it. He knew for a fact that his brain would shut down the moment he lost focus.

The veteran soldier broke out into a cold sweat; thick beads of perspiration dripped from his brow down to his face one after another.

After confirming that Gamdia had been silenced, the demon finally began to speak.



After issuing his warning, the demon turned around and vanished into the night. The way his figure disappeared had almost made it seem as if he'd donned a cloak of shadow.

Gamdia began to hyperventilate the moment the other man left. His body scrambled for deep, rapid breaths over and over again. He'd felt as if he'd held his breath through almost the entirety of the encounter. Or rather, it'd felt more like his body had simply forgotten how to breathe while in the demon's presence.

That was just much terror the other man had inspired in him.

The soldier knew that the demon was far too powerful for him to handle. In fact, he was convinced that he could have eliminated the entire army with ease, even if every last soldier attacked him at once.

Continuing the expedition simply wasn't worth it. Officially, the army had been deployed to the Wicked Forest in order to eliminate both the monsters that had attacked Alfyro and the demon that commanded them. But that was only a coverup. Their real goal was to survey the land and the many natural resources that came with it. The higher ups wanted a detailed preliminary investigation so they could move forward with their plans to claim the forest and settle it. All in order to expand the country's borders. The subjugation was a mere pretense to silence those against the idea.

Personally, Gamdia had thought the whole mission to be a bad joke from the moment he'd received it.

The Wicked Forest was not to be trifled with. The monsters that lived within it were incredibly powerful. Of course, the expedition army had countermeasures. They'd been deployed with a powerful magical device that drove off any monsters in its vicinity. While many other soldiers were more than happy to rely on the technology and trust in their nation's scientists, Gamdia was not. He knew that the whole expedition army was prone to being annihilated the moment the device failed to serve its function.

Losing the army was only the least of his concerns. The Wicked Forest was known to be *the* Supreme Dragon's territory. He had no doubts that the entire nation would be destroyed in the most literal sense of the word if they angered it.

Despite the many risks, his nation's higher ups had pushed the plan forward and forced him and his subordinates to go along with their recklessness.

Knowing that he hadn't the choice to refuse, Gamdia applied for a leadership role. He determined that his best course of action would be to take command of the army so that he could minimize the amount of damage dealt to his country's forces.

But the higher ups once again did not allow him to have his way. They instead delegated the position to an incompetent, foolish noble whose pockets ran much deeper than his mind.

Though his city had been the one subject to the attack, Alfyro's governor had been strongly opposed to the expedition. He vehemently refused to assist in any which way. And, having met the same demon as him, Gamdia now understood why.

"I need to go talk to the stupid noble in charge and convince him to turn the army around."

Gamdia spoke to himself in an attempt to calm himself down and return his breathing to normal.

He knew that suggesting a retreat would call his character to question. He would surely be branded a coward and removed from his position—but he didn't care. He'd been against the expedition from the very start, and wished not for his countrymen to die for meaningless, political bullshit.

He also knew that the noble was in it for the profit. The fool was unlikely to turn the army around regardless of what was said to him. And so, Gamdia resolved to at least

take his own subordinates away and lead them to safety.

With that in mind, the soldier got dressed and readied himself to seek an audience with his “superior.”



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